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# The Long Island FISHERMAN

*The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!*

JULY 7th, 1977, ISSUE No. 25

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# The Long Island FISHERMAN

*The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!*

VOL. 12, No. 25 JULY 7th, 1977


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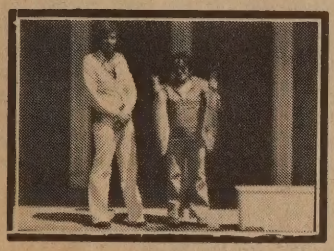

## *About the Cover—*

Marie Williams and Bob Attonito of STARFISH MARINE weigh-in the weakfish that may win Marie a boat. See the news story on page 5.


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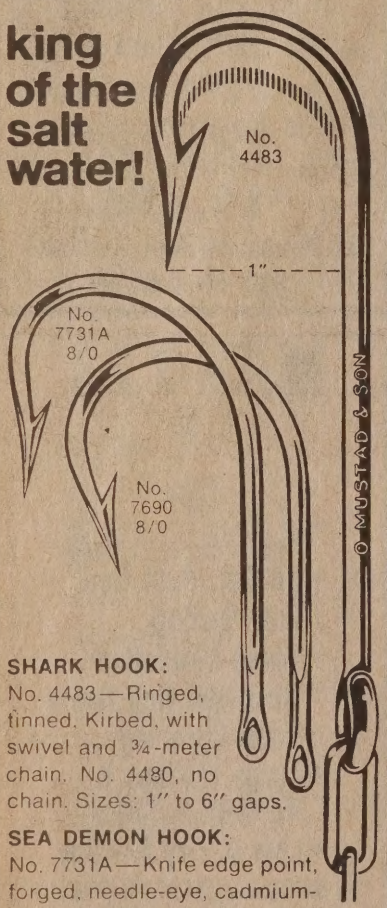


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# ★ EDITORIAL ★

## A Little Common Courtesy, Please!

I was fishing the beach the other night and although there were about a half-dozen boats in the area too, there were no bass. The water was calm, and the night was fairly bright. As things progressed, a couple of the boats decided to give up on plugging and they began dragging worms around.

One of the boats made a swing towards the beach and passed within fifty feet of me on the beach. Actually, it was more like twenty-five feet. Obviously, I couldn't cast until the boat and their towed lines were well past me. Well, I guess I could have cast, and I know a number of surf fishermen who would have put on a weighted treble or some other weapon that could be sacrificed in order to cast into the boat and "tear things up" a little. Well, I didn't and doubt that I ever will feel so angry that I'll act like an animal, but I was really upset.

If a couple of people were using a pool table, would another group suddenly decide to sit on the table or roll the balls around? If a tennis court were in use, would we walk in and start playing tennis? Wouldn't it have been more appropriate to swing the boat out a little as they approached where I was fishing? I think so!

Now, nobody was taking fish—I admit, but when you fish the beach you have to be the eternal optimist and, more times than I can remember, the fish have hit the beach when all looked hopeless. Anyway, one by one, these turkeys decided to leave for greener pastures and one by one, they cut right across my line-of-cast at almost full throttle. With only a couple of feet of water left to the tide, they literally closed the door on whatever possibilities I might still have had.

Courtesy is a funny thing. Our parents spend a great deal of time and effort to teach us how to interact with others; we are always angry and upset when we fail to receive it, and yet, it is one of the cheapest things that we can give. So why is it so hard to remember? A guy drives for an hour or more, gives up a night's sleep, and works his chops off for a few fish, only to be shut out—not by his or her lack of skill or determination—but by some careless, thoughtless bozo!

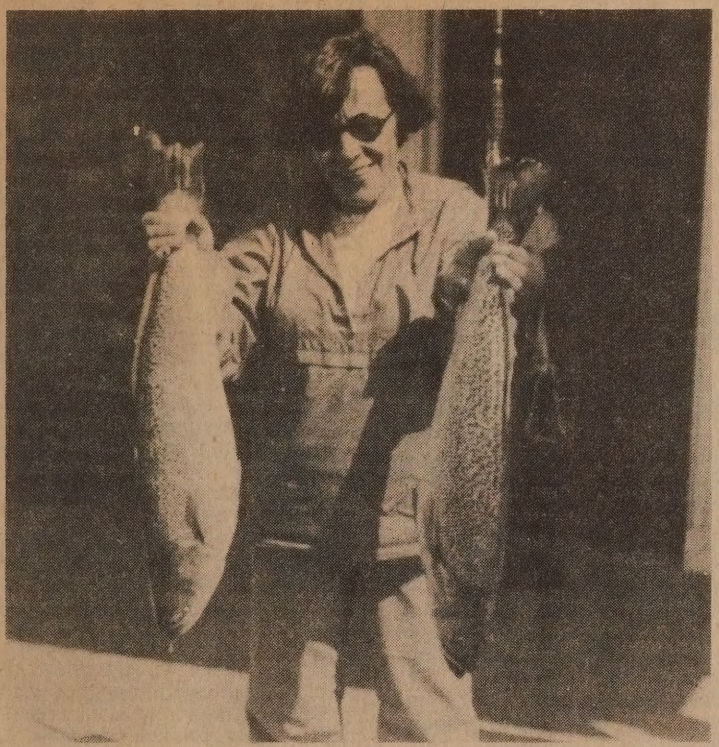
Isn't it odd, too, that when the person who is scorned objects, the scorner reaches back somewhere in the black and evil recesses of his or her brain to find four letter words and other words of hate and distaste?

Let's practice the Golden Rule. Let's do it because it not only pays dividends for others, but for ourselves. Nice deeds have a way of coming back in profusion. An outstretched effort of courtesy may pay interest in terms of a special lure that the fish suddenly decide to prefer, that you are missing from your arsenal, or a word or two about a spot a little down the road where the fish have been hitting on the turn of the tide.

Finally, courtesy is contagious and that kind of disease spread abundantly throughout the fishing tribe has got to make things a lot more comfortable, even if it won't bring the fish to take the hook!

William O. Zeller

# Women Angler Takes Lead in First Annual L.I.F. Fishing Contest!!!



Marie Williams of Smithtown is the first subscriber to enter fish in *The Long Island Fisherman, Starfish Marine* First Annual Fishing Contest. Marie caught two weakfish that are possible International Game Fish Association World Records: an 8lb. 6 oz. weak taken on six-pound Class Line that would tie the present record if approved, and an 8 lb. 3 oz. weak taken on 30-pound Class Line that surpasses the eight-pound Minimum Acceptance Weight for the vacant record for Weakfish, Women 30-pound Class. In both cases, an existing record was not actually broken, so under the scoring system no points have been awarded. But if no new I.G.F.A. records have been set by the October 31st Contest deadline, then either of Marie's fish could win her her choice of a Mako 20 or Grady White Center Console, providing the I.G.F.A. confirms that either catch is a World Record.

Marie has been a subscriber of The Long Island Fisherman since February, when the contest was first announced at the Long Island Boat Show. Make no mistake about it, she was shooting for World Record fish. Fishing with her husband William, Marie used a spinning outfit loaded with six-pound class Ande Tournament monofilament and a conventional outfit loaded with 30-pound class Ande Tournament monofilament. Fishing was done from a small boat off Diamond Point on the north shore near Huntington in only 12 feet of water. The rig used for both fish was a whole sandworm on a 3/0 Eagle Claw beak hook, using a seven-foot leader to a bobber and a small splitshot for weight. It was on Wednesday night, June 22nd, at dusk on the last of incoming water and the fish were on top. The six-pound class spinner was used until a weak large enough to tie the record was landed, then Marie switched to the 30-pound conventional outfit to take the second fish.

Both weakfish were weighed in officially at Starfish Marine in East Islip, as required by the rules. Bob Attonito served as the weighmaster, and instructed Marie on how to fill out the application forms to the International Game Fish Association, and they were sent to the I.G.F.A.'s Headquarters in Florida. It should take between 30 and 60 days for the fish to be confirmed as records.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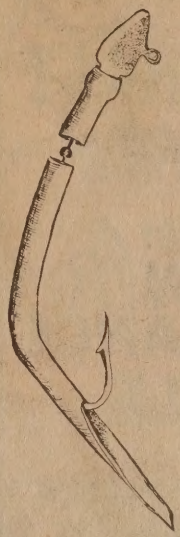

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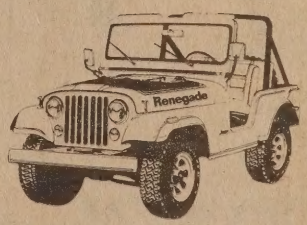


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# Pass It On...

## GOV. CAREY NOMINATES DOC MULLER TO COUNCIL

Governor Hugh L. Carey announced today that he has nominated two persons to the Secretary of Commerce for at-large membership on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Council.

Nominated were: William A. Muller of Deer Park, Suffolk County, Assistant Professor of life sciences at New York Institute of Technology. Mr. Muller, 34, is a specialist in marine biology and marine environment and has made a number of studies of salt marshes.

--Bertram Kaplan of Manlius, Onondaga County, sales and marketing manager for the fishing line division of the Gladding Corp. Mr. Kaplan, 46, is chairman of the line division of the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers and a member of the International Game Fish Association and Sport Fishing Institute.

The Council is one of eight regional councils established last year to develop management plans for fishery resources within a 200 mile limit. The Council will allocate the resources among competing groups, domestic and foreign, and study ecological and conservation needs.

The 19-member Mid-Atlantic Regional Council contains representatives from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. The representatives from New York are Nancy K. Goell of East Hampton, Executive Director of Group for America's South Fork, an environmental protection organization; J. L. McHugh, Professor of Marine Resources at the State University at Stony Brook, and William R. Pell, III of Greenport, fish market proprietor and founder of th e the Great South Bay Farmers Cooperative.

The Secretary of Commerce is expected to select the at-large members in August. If you support the appointment of Dr. Muller to The Council, please write to: Secretary of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230, Att: Juanita Morris Kreeps.

## MECLI MEETING NOTICE

An open public meeting of the Marine Environmental Council of Long Island (MECLI) will be held Thursday, July 7th at 8:00 p.m. at the Bowery Savings Bank, 5100 Sunrise Highway, Massapequa, L.I. (2nd floor meeting room—use rear entrance.)

For further information, contact: George H. Wilde, 516-SU 5-3139; Vincent J. Franco, 516-221-1434.

## PURSE SEINE FISHERY FOR BLUEFIN TUNA CLOSED

The fishing season for Atlantic bluefin tuna weighing between 14 and 115 pounds round weight, which are caught by purse seining, is closed as of June 24, 1977, according to the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

William G. Gordon, Regional Director of the Northeast Region, announces that the Director of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service will close the season effective 0001 hours, June 24, 1977.

The 1977 bluefin tuna regulation published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on June 14, 1977, established a purse seine quota of 1,000 short tons for fish weighing between 14 and 115 pounds. Of the 1,000 short ton quota, 800 tons were available for capture during the open season, and 200 tons were reserved for harvest incidental to conducting a scientific bluefin tuna tagging project. The closure announcement is based on the capture during the open season.

Notice of this closing will appear in the FEDERAL REGISTER on June 23rd. For additional information, contact the Regional Director, 617-281-3600.

## MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL NEWS

1. Council holds a public hearing in Southampton, New York on June 16th to receive comments on draft surf clam/ocean quahog management plan; also reviews commentary received at public meetings held in Norfolk, Virginia; Ocean City, Maryland, Cape May, New Jersey and Asbury Park, New Jersey to seek public views.

2. Council discussed surf clam/ocean quahog plan and gave the staff guidelines to prepare a final draft, subject to the incorporation of comments received on the DEIS, by July 5th. The plan to be activated for a duration of two years, will include an overall annual quota on both surf clams and ocean quahogs which will be adjusted quarterly and allocated by regulating days fished per week. Licensing of vessels, mandatory record keeping, and a moratorium on new entry are additional considerations of the plan.

3. Council recommends adoption of objectives for squid management—they include: a) achieve and maintain optimal stocks for future recruitment; b) prevent destructive exploitations of squid species; c) minimize capture of non-target species; d) implement efficiency in harvesting and use of squid; e) maintain adequate food supply for predator species, recognizing that squid are also predators; f) minimize user conflicts; g) improve understanding of the condition of the stocks; and h) promote and encourage American participation in the squid fishery. The objectives are not listed in any order of priority.

4. Model charter for advisory panel and sub-panels reviewed; Council endorses establishment of a pool of advisors numbering over 100 with sub-panels of 16 individuals nominated to provide constituent input on mackerel, squid, scallop, and clam plan development.

5. Council reviews suggested amendments to PL 94-265 and in addition to changes already proposed, that consideration be given to 1) requiring permits on all foreign vessels fishing in the Fishery Conservation Zone including

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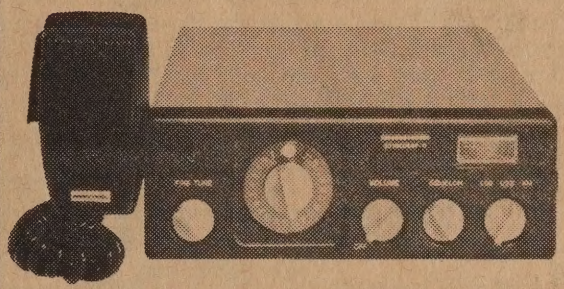

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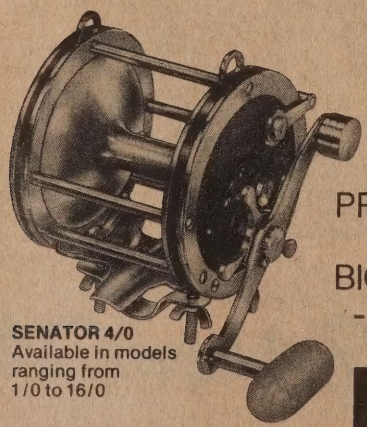

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those vessels pursuing "highly migratory species," and, 2) granting the Secretary of Commerce emergency powers to effect regulations in the absence of an established plan for six months based on justifiable need.

6. Council heard reports on outcome of NAFCO meeting, Canadian-U. S. scallop negotiations, bill fish committee meeting, Houston OY workshop, Statistical Scientific Committee June 13th-14th meeting, New England and South Atlantic Council meetings, and the observer progam.

7. Future Council meetings are scheduled for July 13th-14th in Norfolk, Virginia; August 10-11 in Hershey, Pennsylvania and September 14-15 in Ocean City, Maryland.

**MORE L. I. RAMPS COMING?**

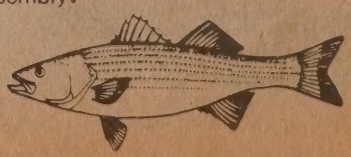
My letter is directed towards your editorial in the Long Island Fisherman on April 7th, regarding the paucity of launching ramps for boats on the shores of Long Island.

The points mentioned in your editorial are well taken and deserve the attention of the Legislature. As a resident of Long Island, I was quite surprised at the present number of launch ramps now open to the public. As a result, I did a follow-up to see what is currently being done by the State to remedy the situation.

I contacted John G. Sheridan of the Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission to see what new projects are being funded and what further progress is being made. He informed me that five new public launch sites are under construction on Long Island: two in the Town of Hempstead, one in Lindenhurst, one in the Town of Greenport and one in East Hampton. In addition, eight other marine related projects have been funded on Long Island including bulkheading, dredging and pump-out stations. This number is obviously **not** sufficient to provide Long Island with adequate facilities for boating and fishing recreation.

After reviewing all the information available on the subject, I concluded that a legislative study must be taken to determine the remaining needs for Long Island and the potential costs. Mr. Sheridan has indicated the reason for a large number of boat launching sites Upstate stems from the "relative fiscal and physical ease of construction Upstate. Many of the (Upstate) sites required only minimal grading, parking, rails, etc., and labor costs were at a minimum."

I feel your readers should know that the Legislature **does** care about the boat owner and fisherman. As a Long Island legislator, it is my wish to see that such facilities are adequately available for use by the public and that they are maintained in a satisfactory manner by the State. KEMP HANNON, Member of Assembly.



# CLUB NEWS

### BOB SATER TO SPEAK AT SALTY FLYRODDERS

Bob Sater will be the featured speaker at the monthly meeting of the "SALTY" Flyrodders of New York, Inc., to be held on Monday, July 11th in the lower hall of the Grace Lutheran Church, 31-10 21st Avenue, Astoria, N.Y., starting at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Sater is a well known and innovative fly tyer who is also very proficient with a fly rod and who has some interesting and personal ways to successful striped bass fishing. He will present a slide show on local areas, methods, flies and techniques for various species.

As part of the program, Mr. Sater will also demonstrate the proper dressing for some of his original flies.

This should be a very interesting program, bring your friends and enjoy a good evening. Coffee and cake will be served.

### PATCHOGUE FISHING CLUB WINS CASTING EVENT

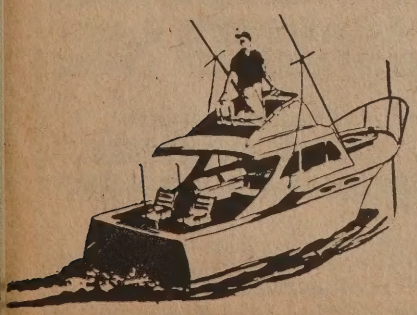
The Patchogue Fishing Club did very well in the Atlantic City Fishing and Casting Tournament on June 10th, 11th, and 12th. The Club team won the casting event with 143 points. The following team members contributed to the win in their divisions: Jim Belmonte, Tom Kelenbeck, George Dietz, Tom Forbes, Bob Cromeyn, Barbara Forbes, Carolyn Wolfson, Toni Terman, and Peggy Cromeyn.

The fishing in the surf was very poor and no winner was declared for that part of the Tournament.

### MISSING ADDRESSES

Would the following people please contact Sue at The Fisherman at 725-4200:

J. Henning; J. Furst; J. Bodkin; J. McCabe; L. Ammirati; J. Conn; S.Lilker; B. Suroweic; Ray Curran; Don Regine; Wilson Chin; James Carupolo II; Robert Deyarchen and James Pl Lilerma BNL.

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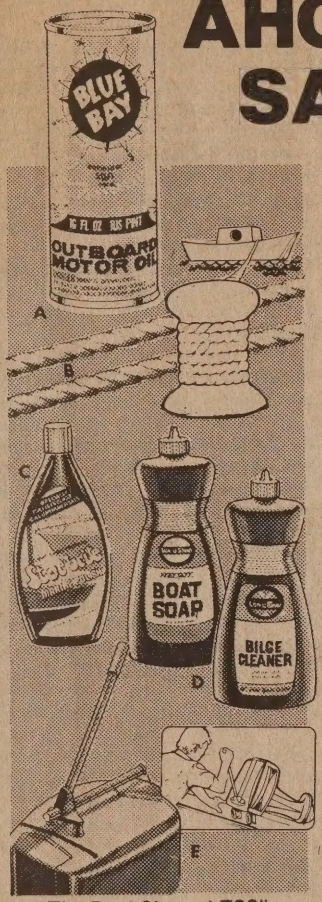


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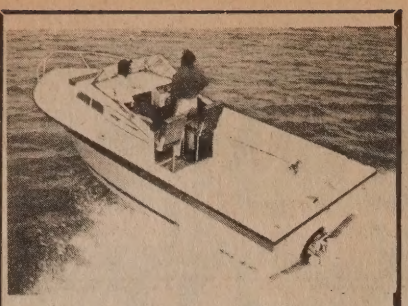

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# CHUM LINES

*REP. NORMAN LENT SUPPORTS DOC MULLER*

I thought you might be interested to see the response I recently received from the Governor regarding the nomination of Dr. William A. Muller for a seat on the Middle Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Council.

You will note that Dr. Muller's nomination has been sent to the U. S. Department of Commerce for final determination.

It was my pleasure to be of assistance in this matter and my best personal wishes to you. *Norman F. Lent, Member of Congress.*

*Governor Carey has asked me to respond to your letter recommending that Dr. William A. Muller be nominated to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Council.*

*The Governor is pleased to let you know that he has forwarded his nomination of Dr. Muller to the United States Department of Commerce which will make the final decision.*

*Thank you for letting Governor Carey know of your recommendation in this matter.* Judith Hope, Appointments Officer to the Governor.

*REP. WYDLER SUPPORTS MULLER ALSO*

I am enclosing for your information a letter I have received from Governor Carey's office, informing me that Dr. William A. Muller has been nominated to a seat on the Mid Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Council.

I was very pleased to write to Governor Carey at your request, recommending this nomination, and am happy to note the positive response.

With every good wish, I am, *John W. Wydler, Member of Congress.*

Attached please find a copy of a letter from Judith Hope, the Appointments Officer to the Governor, indicating the possibilities for Dr. Muller to be appointed to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Council. I thought this letter would be of interest to you.

Good luck to Dr. Muller and if I can be of any service to you in the future, please feel free to call upon me. **George Hochbrueckner, Member of Assembly.**

*Dear George:*

*This is in response to your May 16th letter attaching a letter you received from the editor of the Long Island Fisherman asking you to support Dr. William A Muller for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Council. Tuesday, Governor Carey forwarded the nomination of Dr. Muller to the Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

*Unfortunately, the eight member states may each submit as many as nine nominees for just three vacant at-large seats. As there are already three members from New York State, it is by no means certain that Dr. Muller will be appointed.*

*In view of the great disappointment that none of the Governor's 1976 nominees representing sports fishing interests was chosen, we hope that Dr. Muller may be selected this year. However, the decision is up to the Department of Commerce.*

*Thank you for letting us know of your interest and concern in this matter.* Judith Hope, Appointments Officer to the Governor.

**JONES BEACH POWER SQUADRON**

A day of demonstrations devoted to safety on the waters will be conducted at Wantagh Park on Saturday, July 9th by the Jones Beach Power Squadron in conjunction with United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Division XIII, and Nassau County Department of Recreation and Parks.

The event is being held to coincide with National Safe Boating Week, July 3rd-9th. The day's activities starting at 1:30 P.M. will include educational and equipment displays by U.S. Power Squadron and U.S. Coast Guard, on Navigational Aids, Chart Updating, First Aid, Marlin Spike, Skin Diving and many others, a simulated rescue operation by the Nassau County Police Department Air and Marine Bureaus, and a dockside Fire-fighting demonstration by the Wantagh Fire Department.

The day-long program is open to Nassau Residents, Boaters and their guests free of charge. The rain date is Sunday, July 10th.

Wantagh Park is located on Merrick Road just west of Wantagh Parkway.


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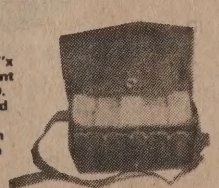

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# Fish Talk with Dr. W.A. Muller

# NORTHERN KINGFISH

***Mentricirrhus saxatailis***

**NORTHERN KINGFISH (Mentricirrhus saxatilis)** are summer residents of our inshore waters. The fish are found from Maine to Florida, but from North Carolina to Maine, the fish are visitors, while south of North Carolina they are caught all year round. Kingfish are thought to move northward in late spring, as the temperature of southern waters rises. Although they are comfortable with water temperatures of about 65 to 80 degrees F., they prefer temperatures in the upper sixties to low seventies. Thus, as the schools move north, the fish that were at the northern part of the winter range move into New England waters, while some of the fish from the southern part of the winter range move into the Carolinas and Del-Mar-Va area. Various regional contingents of the kingfish populations are acclimated to the conditions common to that area, and therefore, only migrate as far north as is necessary to duplicate the temperature range of their winter homes.

**COMPLICATED MIGRATION?** Not really, although I can see how the above explanation might be complicated. Try to picture a big, shaded area along the coast from Florida to North Carolina—that represents the winter home range of this species. Now stretch that shaded area northward: furthermore, pretend that the shaded area from Florida to North Carolina becomes diluted as we stretch it so that the concentration of the fish diminishes.

**THE KINGFISH IS BRIGHTLY COLORED.** Kingfish are cylindrical and the body tapers slowly from head to tail. The fins are conventional, with the exceptions of the dorsal fin and tail (caudal) fin. The tail fin has a graceful S-shaped margin and the first spine of the dorsal is very long. The net effect of these configurations is stately and impressive. The body of the fish is silvery and white, with shading of yellow, olive, brown, and black. Much of the olive, brown, and black coloration is found in about six bands that run at an angle towards the head from the dorsal portion of the body to the ventral area.

**KINGFISH ARE SILENT CROAKERS!** The kingfish belong to the family of fishes called Sciaenidae. This group includes the drums, weakfish, and other croakers. However, the animal lacks a swim bladder, which makes it impossible to produce the same drumming or croaking noises typical of other members of the group. Because the fish lack swim bladders, they also do not float easily and thus, the kingfish spends much of its time resting on the bottom or swimming very close to it. Keep that in mind when you try to fish for them.

**A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME WOULD SMELL AS SWEET!** A couple of years back, I took a trip to Hatteras to hopefully cash in on some bonanza winter bluefishing. On the way down, I noticed the fishing piers at various locations along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. I couldn't resist the temptation to stop and check it out. I asked several anglers what they were catching and the most common catch that day was "mullet." Now that seemed a little strange to me because these anglers were fishing on the bottom with bait. My curiousity sharpened, I had to have a look in the buckets. What I found was kingfish! Later, I found out that they are also called whiting in extreme southern waters. I'll settle for kingfish!

**FU MANCHU OF THE FISH CLAN!** That was my first impression when I caught my very first kingfish. I guess that the biggest reason for this impression has to be the chin barbels that are quite prominent. The mouth of the kingfish is located under the head, and although they will attack a moving bait, they spend much of their time "grubbing" in the mud and sand for crustaceans, worms, and tiny mollusks. The chin barbels are feelers that help the fish to locate edible tidbits in the sediment; but darned if those barbels don't make the fish look like it has grown a mustache!

**ADD KINGFISH TO THE LIST OF EELGRASS LOVERS.** This species spawns in the shallow bays and apparently in the eelgrass beds where the eggs and young are sheltered from the harsh effects of wind, tide, and waves. The eelgrass beds are very productive too, and there is plenty of tiny food for the juvenile kingfish. Along about the early part of July, the eelgrass beds must get pretty crowded what with juvenile weakfish, kingfish, porgies, flounders, killies, and spearing, along with a host of invertebrate animals. Wow! Pretty soon they'll need traffic lights down there! That's silly, of course, but I would like to make a request. Since the eelgrass beds are so valuable, let's institute our own traffic control measures. That is, don't run power boats through eelgrass beds that are found in shallow water. If, for some reason, you wind up there by accident, use your oar to push your way free of the beds before starting your engine. Can you imagine what must happen to the hordes of weaks and other species when a power boat cuts a swash through the eelgrass?

**YOUNG KINGFISH THINK THEY'RE BATS!** Well, of course fish don't reason and they don't fly around at night looking for the necks of fair young maidens as the bats of mythology are supposed to do. However, the young hatchling kingfish do float upside-down for awhile. Can't figure that one out, but whatever turns you on, I guess?

**THE KINGFISH HOLE!** Kingfish have not been exactly abundant for quite sometime now, but do you remember a place where you could invariably count on catching kingfish? I do! I can describe your kingfish hole pretty well, I'll bet, even though I've never seen it, because they all have several characteristics in common. It was a relatively small area and the bottom was slightly deeper than the surrounding area. The bottom was sandy mud, and there was a slight current—not too strong, but not stagnant.

**WHY DO I SAY WAS?** Kingfish have not been too abundant since the early 1960s. The same situation occurred in the 1930s, but the fish increased again, so that by 1950, there were plenty of the spunky fish around to please summer bottom fishermen. However, things are looking up! The past two years has marked an increase in the number of kingfish taken. This fishing has not been of bonanza quality, but it has become worthwhile to deliberately fish for them. Lots of little kingfish have been appearing in the kids' snapper catches the past couple of years, too. Beware, because when kingfish really become abundant, they are easily as common as flounders. The upswing in the cycle has been modest to date, but if these fish ever hit the right combination of circumstances, we're all in for great summertime sport and sensational table fare.

**SMALL BUT DETERMINED FIGHTERS!** Kingfish taken in our waters usually average about one pound, but fish as large as three pounds are not that uncommon. I saw one specimen caught—oh, more than ten years ago—that weighed four-and-one-half pounds. If kingfish grew to ten pounds regularly, they would easily qualify as game fish. They fight hard. Typically, they'll run quickly away from the boat and may strip line when the tackle is light. Then they'll dog for the bottom, and finally, in the last stages of the battle they will swim in circles, sometimes taking the angler around the boat in the same way that weakfish will. Of course, one pound fish are easily whipped and heavy tackle can make any fish—short of a tuna—seem docile; but a three pound kingfish on light spinning gear is a joy to catch!

**GEAR!** The best hook is the sproat or O'Shaughnessy size 1/0. Some anglers use a number 6 chestertown, but I think the other hooks are better choices. Use about an 18 inch monofilament leader and attach this just above the sinker. Best baits are seaworms, clams, mus-

*(Continued on page 53.)*

# CONSERVATION COMMENTS *by Al Ristori*

The Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council held its monthly meeting at the Southampton Inn, Southampton, L. I., from June 15th-17th. Feature of this meeting was something of relatively little interest to sportsmen—a management plan for surf clams (skimmers) and ocean quahog. Surf clam prices have quadrupled since the beginning of last year, resulting in massive investment in new and bigger boats—at the same time that stocks are rapidly declining. Formerly vast beds off Point Pleasant, N. J. and Cape Charles, Virginia, have been seriously depleted, leaving only the **Delmarva** area as a prime producer. It's essential that management measures be instituted quickly if we're not to be faced with a complete breakdown in the fishery, and truly outlandish prices for clam strips, clam chowder, clam sauce, etc.

A public hearing on the night of June 16th was well attended by interested parties from Virginia to Maine. This was the culmination of a series of public meetings held since the beginning of the month in Norfolk, Virginia; Ocean City, Maryland; Cape May and Asbury Park, New Jersey, and two sites in New England. Though the final plan won't be presented until next month, it appears clear at this time that a four-day work week, and quarterly quota system is likely to emerge. Some of the pressure on the surf clam will be relieved by increased emphasis on the ocean quahog, found in deeper water in great quantites. Unfortunately, the ocean quahog isn't a perfect substitute, as the meat is somewhat stronger; it produces less meat per bushel, and is harder to open—requiring special machinery that many small processors are reluctant to put in. Though extremely abundant at present, there is the possibility that the ocean quahog could also be fished out quickly. Sea Grant researchers have gathered preliminary evidence that indicates the ocean quahog may live to be over 100 years old—and doesn't mature until about 12 years of age! By the way, all of the foregoing won't affect skimmer clams for bait. They come from polluted areas off New York and are taken by special permit within state waters. This is one instance in which pollution may have proved helpful. The bait clam beds are in fine shape—not only producing a ready supply of bait at reasonable prices, but also serving as brood stock for depleted beds off the New Jersey Coast.

*********

The Council also heard a presentation by Dr. Edwards, of Woods Hole, relative to the cutbacks at the Sandy Hook Marine Lab. That facility has performed valuable work over the years on sport species important to mid-Atlantic anglers. Most of the fisheries' work there is being transferred to Woods Hole, which has concentrated their efforts on commercial, and more northerly species, over the years. Dr. Edwards assured us that the work we're interested in would continue and, perhaps even intensify at Woods Hole. Sandy Hook will continue to have a major role in monitoring water conditions in the area. Actually, the biggest cuts were at the NMFS lab at Milford, Connecticut, with other cuts at the lab in Oxford, Maryland. Only time will tell whether the reorganization will accomplish its purpose—and we'll be keeping an eye on it to make sure it does!

*********

Bill Gordon, NE Director for NMFS, gave a report on the work of the initial groups of observers assigned to foreign fishing vessels. Two complete trips of up to eight weeks have been made, and 15 were on board at the time of our meeting. There have been no problems aboard the foreign vessels and good by-catch and biological data is being accumulated. By-catch is a serious problem, as current regulations forbid the foreigners to keep over a certain percentage of non-target species, resulting in many dead fish being dumped overboard. The Council had originally proposed that the regulations permit retention of by-catch, but at a high fee. We restated that position at this meeting. Ironically, the only trouble NMFS observers have been having so far is with American vessels. Indeed, one case of assault is being prosecuted at the present time.

*********

Another proposal I've been pushing, involves forcing use of mid-water trawls by the foreign squid fishery. As presently conducted with bottom trawls, it is what Richard Miller, Executive Secretary of The Long Island Fisherman's Association (commercial), characterizes as a "dirty fishery." That is, it takes a very high percentage of by-catch. This is especially true during the winter when fluke, sea bass and porgies are abundant in the same areas that harbor squid concentrations. The Emergency Committee to Save America's Marine Resources opposed the preliminary management plan for squid because the window areas would necessarily result in a large by-catch of these important sport and commercial species. Yet, as every fisherman knows, squid are not strictly bottom fish and, therefore, can be taken with mid-water trawls. The use of such trawls should eliminate most by-catch. The foreigners claim that it will be harder to take their catch in that fashion, but I'm willing to bet that if the surplus were to be allocated with the stipulation that it could be caught only with mid-water trawls, there would be a rush to buy the allocations!

At our last meeting, the Council resolved that additional squid quotas (from unused American allocations) should not be distributed until September (when the population status will be clearer), and urged that the additional quotas be used to encourage experimentation with mid-water trawls. Bill Gordon reported that just such an arrangement has been worked out with a Japanese vessel. The experiment will be carried on for three weeks this summer, and the vessel will carry observers from both NMFS and the industry. If this cruise is successful, the greatest problem associated with the foreign squid fishery may be overcome. By the way, initial reports on this year's squid fishery haven't been good. The domestic catch is way down, despite record high prices. Trap operators have received up to 60 cents a pound for the relatively scarce squid—bad news for bait buyers!

*********

A hopeful sign for early implementation of the preliminary bill fish management plan: the State Department representative at this meeting indicated that his department has no objections to the proposals adopted by the Inter-Council Bill Fish Steering Committee in February. If that's the case, there should be no further stumbling blocks put in the path of the preliminary plan. Latest word from the South Atlantic Council is that hearings on the final plan will start this summer.


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# Sinker Bouncing

*with Matt Ahern*

## WHY PARTY BOATS?

**★Part One★**

Good question. Fishermen have been asking that one for years. I know a great many who toyed with the idea a good, long time before making up their minds. But once the plunge was made, the answer quickly became apparent: they caught fish!

I've made hundreds of party boat trips, and I can truthfully say I've never seen a day when fish weren't caught. True, there've been days when fishing could have been better; but to even the score, I've also seen days when party boat anglers wondered just what in blazes they were going to do with all the fish they'd caught.

It is my firm belief that no angling method produces as many confident, well-rounded fishermen as does party boat fishing. If you are one of those fishermen who sometimes has difficulty putting fish in your bucket; if those elusive blackfish, porgies, flounders, fluke, and other bottom fish, seem not to appreciate your efforts—go party boat fishing. I guarantee this sad state of affairs will soon come to an end. Those elusive fish will become easy marks for your baited hook. Of this, I'm sure. You will learn more in one hour of good fishing, than six months of discouraging trial-and-error.

Why is this so? Again, the answer is simple; but not so readily apparent. Keep in mind that when party boat fishing, you've got two extremely important factors working in your favor. Your fare not only includes obvious things like the use of bait and transportation to the best fishing grounds in your local area, but of more importance, your fare includes the skill of a professional fishing skipper and his crew.

Don't treat factor number two lightly. You may go out to those fishing grounds on board the finest, latest, speediest, electronically-equipped party boat to come from the shipyard, but if the skipper doesn't know his stuff, you'll be right back where you started.

Fortunately, for all concerned, the unskilled party boat skipper is rare. In fact, in fifty years of party boat fishing, I've never met one. These professionals are in a class by themselves. I count several as good friends. I've been a mate on their boats; I've been a guest in their homes; I've shared meals with them and their families; alone we've discussed fishing and fishing methods until brain-weary. And just when I think I know them from A to Z, they will come up with some unsuspected ability at the crucial moment that saves the fishing day for their many patrons. Their fishing skills, their knowledge of the sea, and their seamanship never ceases to amaze me.

I hope now you no longer wonder why party boat fishing seems always to produce fish. To me, it would be a miracle if it didn't.

Let's not overlook the fishermen that frequent these boats: those skilled anglers each skipper calls his "regulars." I don't think you will find better bottom fishermen anywhere, not only in fish-catching ability, but in their willingness to share their hard-won knowledge with a beginner. Sure, I know, they give the outward appearance of being rough and ready, but hidden under that facade, lie some of the kindest, most helpful fellow fishermen I've ever known.

Got a problem when aboard a party boat? Not exactly sure how to rig up, or use bait? Skipper and mate too busy at the moment? No trouble. Seek aid from any of the master fishermen on board. You'll notice them quickly enough. They're the guys who fairly reek of self-confidence, steeped in the knowledge that, come what may, they can handle it.

Should problems arise while fishing, you can spot these gentlemen immediately. They're the guys catching the fish. Don't be surprised if one of these fishermen racks his rod and devotes his valuable fish-catching opportunity to solving your problem. It happens all the time. A grander, more unselfish group of fishermen you will seldom meet.

Okay, so I've sold you on the idea of giving party boat fishing a whirl. What do you do now? How do you go about it? Again, no problem.

First, what kind of fish do you wish to catch? Local sinker bouncers are fortunate in having a good selection of fish from which to choose. Some party boats specialize in cod, some in blackfish, some in fluke, etc. Some only do wreck fishing, some devote the day to a general potpourri of what's available at any given time. The decision is yours.

My advice is not to specialize—at least not in the beginning. Learning how to catch each fish as it becomes available develops a sound fishing foundation. Many times, the methods learned for one particular fish can be used on another with but slight modification. If you specialize in one fish alone, this becomes difficult to do.

More than once have I had interested fishermen ask me which of the local boats is best? This is a loaded question and I always refuse to answer it. Not because I'm afraid of being caught in the middle, but because I honestly don't think it can be answered to the satisfaction of the fisherman. Too many factors enter into it.

What may be a fine party boat for me—one with a hard-working skipper, let's say—may not necessarily be the one for you. Certainly, individual temperament enters into it. Party boat fishing is "rough" fishing, and what may not annoy one fisherman, may quite possibly upset another.

Maybe on one of those slow days we all encounter, you'll get the idea that the skipper isn't trying hard enough. But certainly unless you have had an opportunity to compare, this argument doesn't hold water. Take my word for it: the skipper knows what he's doing. His prime concern is to get fish and keep his patrons satisfied. At the back of his mind is always the hope that you'll eventually become a "regular."

No, don't blame the skipper—blame the fish that deserted the grounds he selected. Blame the weather if you wish, the shift in wind—anything. But don't blame the skipper. He's in there pitching all the time. Remember: as good as party boat fishing can be, not everyday is a banner day. I would suggest giving the skipper at least one more opportunity to vindicate himself in your mind. You may find things vastly improved next time out.

Unless this is your particular method of fishing, don't become a boat-hopper without good reason. This is about the best way to keep your catch at a minimum. You are sure to miss out on some excellent fishing when expert skippers hit their stride.

When you find the boat on which you feel comfortable, one with a congenial crew and a fish-wise skipper, that's the boat for you. Stick with it; the fish will come. You can be sure of that. Remember: no one can guarantee you fish. A knowledgeable skipper can only place you over the fish. The rest is up to you.

Until your fishing skill is honed to the finest edge possible, don't expect to outfish the many expert fishermen you'll find on these boats—some of whom have as much as fifty years' experience behind them—you'll never do it. You may, however, be fortunate to nail the pool on occasion. After all, luck does play an important part in fishing, but rarely will you outfish these master anglers.

None of the above is meant to discourage you. But this is the part of party boat fishing I seldom see discussed—and I believe it should be. More potentially excellent party boat fishermen have become discouraged because they were led to believe fish would leap in the bucket with little effort on their part. They will, but only after you've mastered the skills necessary to do so. Therefore, be of good cheer, and don't become disheartened if you felt you should have done better the last time out. The next time you will; have no doubt of that.

It isn't difficult to select a party boat for your initial trip. Many fishermen have a friend or two who frequent these boats. It's simple then: listen when they talk and advise. You'll save yourself much effort, and will most likely find the ideal boat for the particular kind of fishing you desire.

But what do you do when you have no one to ask? Again, no problem. There are several ways to do this. Check the ads in this magazine for the fishing that appeals to you, the departure time, etc. Then, if at all possible, try to check out the results of the day's fishing at the dock the afternoon before you intend to fish. If the weather holds up, a repeat of the catch can be expected. If the weather falls apart overnight, be

***(Continued on page 14.)***

# Surf Side with John Fritz

## The Light at the End of the Road

While some beaches on Long Island are well known for their bottom fishing potential, those surfcasters who prefer to use plugs can find no more worthwhile place than Montauk Point. The strong currents encountered here provide the fast-moving water so necessary when attempting to work such lures as the darters and bottle plugs. In addition to this, one has the awareness that these are productive waters, probably the most fertile found on the Island.

The heavy surf conditions, and numerous rocks require that heavy tackle be used for the most part. Therefore, an eleven-foot-stick, fitted with the Crack 300 or equivalent, is most often seen in use here. There are times when light tackle is called for, but this is generally restricted to the area known as the "North Side."

Normally, popping plugs and tin are the standbys of the sunlit hours. Any of the shiny metal lures, like the Hopkins, Kastmasters, or J-8 type squids will provide the distance required to reach the fish when they are lying off the beach. This is especially true when casting into a strong wind.

There are times when the fish are not actively feeding on surface bait, making it necessary to have a lure that will sink. Tin, as is obvious, will do just that, but the danger lies in allowing it to sink too far and snagging on one of the multitude of rocks that pave the bottom. A thought which might lessen this problem is to remove any treble hooks found on the tin, and replace them with a single hook.

The Striper Swipers and Creek Chub poppers will work fine on the surface if the fish are within a reasonable distance, and the wind is not too strong in your face. When that extra distance is needed, make sure you have a few of the heavier Gibb's Polaris or Lupo poppers in your bag. The larger Gibb's Pencil Poppers are another choice which can be heaved a long way because of their weight and configuration. On occasion, these plugs will produce when retrieved like the standard poppers, but they are more deadly when given their own appropriate action. The master of this art is Jerry B. who, for hours, will tirelessly work his arm and shoulder to cause the rod to undulate, while slowly retrieving the plug, causing it to dance along the surface imitating a floundering bait fish.

Bucktails are employed by some sharpies in the boat to take bass from in front of our noses. Their use from the beach among these rocks will result in many bucktails added to the bottom. Bucktails are relatively cheap though, so it is worth a try if nothing else is working for you.

Add an 18 inch leader to your popping plug and tie the bucktail to the end of this as a teaser. The theory here is that if the fish are feeding on small bait which you can't imitate, the larger plug will attract the fish's attention, while the smaller bucktail will entice him to strike.

Often, near sunset, it is advisable to switch to a surface swimming plug, such as the 7 inch Red Fin or Rebel Floaters. These are mainly used on the north side, but the wet suit clan fishing from the south side rocks score with them frequently.

The night action can be roughly broken into two seasons; the spring and early summer when smaller lures are used, and the fall when the heavy artillery is brought into play.

Most of your spring and early summer fishing is done in the area found between Jones Reef and Shagwong. Rebels, Red Fins and Atoms, usually of the five inch variety, are the most commonly used lures. Of course, there are occasions when other lures are the answer. I offer as an example, the night at Shagwong when the weaks would touch nothing but a Mirror Lure. When fishing this particular sandy area without success, try your Whiptails and rubber eels, worked along the bottom.

The two basic plugs used during the fall run, are the darter and the expensive bottle plug. Why anything as ugly as the latter would catch a fish as smart as a striped bass, is beyond me. The bottle plug, though, is a dynamite lure when the rip is not built up enough to allow your darter to work at its maximum potential. The bottle plug, with its larger lip, will dig into a rough surf more readily than a darter. There are more things to consider when choosing among these two plugs—such as working depth and action—but these plugs in a variety of colors will produce. Yellow-and-white are the most popular shades, with blue, green, or black needed on certain occasions.

Gibbs, through the years, has been the major supplier of these two plugs, but their quality has been declining in recent years. Last year, Johnny Kronuch introduced us to a new line of darters and bottle plugs, which handle very well. Unfortunately, due to the bust on the surf scene last fall, we couldn't give them a good workout.

The Atom 40 was a favorite plug years ago and though its popularity declined for awhile, it is making a comeback along the surf line. The Atom and the newer Lupo Danny can be employed under the south side bluffs, where they handle well among the boulder-strewn ledges and coves.

This south side area is sparsely populated with surfmen, making the use of a wide variety of lures possible. The north side and the Light are generally crowded, making a more uniform employment of lures and equipment necessary. In order to illustrate this, picture the havoc wrought by one fisherman using, say, a Rebel when everyone else is casting heavy darters. When fishing shoulder-to-shoulder—which is usually the case when fish are being taken—the shorter cast and different swing of the lure will repeatedly entangle him in his neighbor's lines.

One other important point: the normal way to work a lure in a rip on any beach, is to cast up-current at a 45 degree angle and let the lure swing with the current as you work it back towards the beach. When everyone casts in the same direction and uses the same type lures, tangles and tempers can be kept at a minimum.

Although there are a few exceptions, and some have their own preferences, the general rule is to fish high incoming under the Light, working your way around to the North Bar. Try to plan your itinerary so that you arrive there for the last half of the falling tide. If the Light is too crowded, Scotts and Jones Reef have produced on the incoming, whereas if North Bar is too crowded, False Bar and Jones have produced on the low outgoing.

Shagwong is a sandy area, thus it can change radically from year-to-year. Investigation will have to be made before-hand to see on which tide the rip forms and where it will be accessible to you on the beach.

Montauk Point is an area where many years have been spent by its regulars in learning its secrets. There are more knowledgeable Montauk fishermen than I, who have taught me some of their hard-earned lessons. Some of the basic have been related here, but Montauk—more than any other area of this Island of ours—requires study. Study, loss of sleep, long hours, cursed rocks, and a seemingly endless drive home in the morning.

Ask me if it's worth the effort. My answer without hesitation is, **YES!**

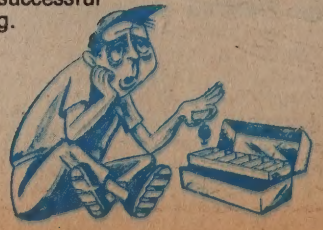
## SINKER BOUNCING

*(Continued from page 13.)*

advised to wait for better conditions. Have as much going for you as possible.

You can also call the skipper the evening before, and get the low-down on the day's fishing. Yes, I know, there used to be a stigma attached to this way of gathering information: but have no fear, you won't be conned. Those so-called fishermen who stretched the truth to feather their nests, are long gone from the fishing scene. They quickly found out that Lincoln was right: you can fool some of the people some of the time ...

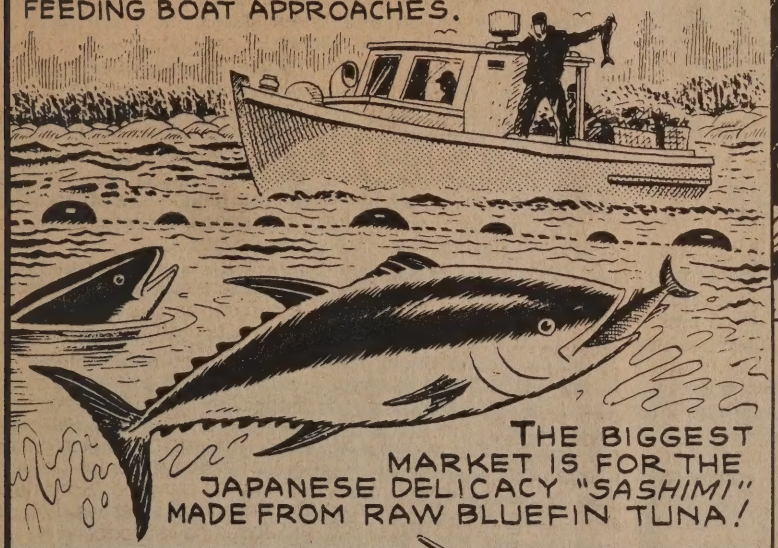
Next week, we'll discuss tackle, rigging, hooks, baits, etc., needed for successful party boat fishing.



# FISH & MARINE NEWS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

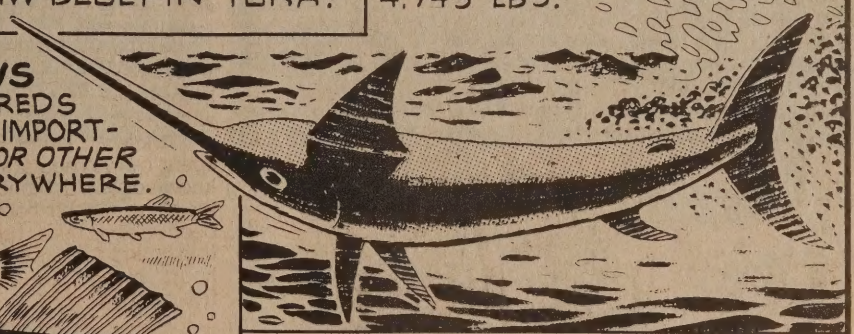
**"BLUE FIN MOTEL"** IS THE LOCAL NAME FOR A NOVA SCOTIA TUNA RANCH WHERE 700 LB. OR LARGER GIANT TUNA ARE HELD IN MASSIVE NET SYSTEMS WHERE THEY PUT ON AN EXTRA 200 LBS. IN WEIGHT....MORE THAN 1/2 TON OF FRESH FISH AND SQUIDS ARE THE DAILY MENU FOR FATTENING THE 55 BLUEFINS WHICH BECOME QUITE TAME AND LEARN TO KNOW WHEN THE FEEDING BOAT APPROACHES.



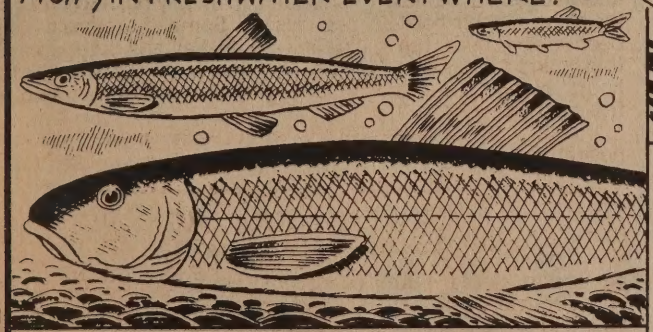
THE BIGGEST MARKET IS FOR THE JAPANESE DELICACY "SASHIMI" MADE FROM RAW BLUEFIN TUNA!

**OTIS**, THE 18-INCH OCTOPUS IN A LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS RESTAURANT AQUARIUM, LAID 5,000 EGGS! THE NAME WAS CHANGED TO **IRIS!**

**SINCE THE 1971 F.D.A.** "SWORDFISH MERCURY" SCARE, TASTY SWORDFISH STEAKS HAVE PLUMMETED IN THE MARKET FROM 19,240,841 LBS. YEARLY TO ONLY 4,745 LBS.



**SUCKERS AND MINNOWS** OF WHICH THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF SPECIES, ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT FORAGE FISH (*FOOD FOR OTHER FISH*) IN FRESHWATER EVERYWHERE.



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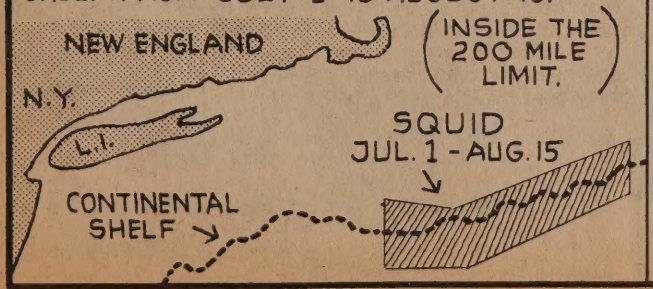
**WHERE THE FOREIGN FISHING FLEET** CAN FISH FOR SQUID ALONG THE CONTINENTAL SHELF FROM JULY 1 TO AUGUST 15.



# Navigation & Seamanship

*with Capt. Irv Levine*

## LATERAL SYSTEM

The United States has the very best system of Aids to Navigation in the world. There are more than 40,000 floating aids and buoys on the U. S. waters. Contrary to belief, these aids are designed, built, placed on station, and maintained by the United States Coast Guard. A herculean task well done, and a round of applause is in order. The basic purpose of buoys is to warn the mariner of dangerous obstructions, hazards, and to mark the best passage for a safe journey. Buoys have shapes, colors, number or letters, and light characteristics, to show the side to be passed when entering from seaward toward the head of navigation. Boatmen should not rely completely on the position of a particular buoy. They may be missing, or off position because of tides, ice, storm, or collision from a vessel. Never tie-up to a buoy, or anchor close to it. It is against the law. Buoys are like icebergs; much of them lie below the surface of the water. A dancing or gyrating buoy can easily crack the side of a hull, or worse yet, hit you below the waterline. Remember they are like icebergs. This is called a "Gotcha'." Always report a buoy or any navigational aid that is out of position or not functioning properly, to the Coast Guard.

The color, not the shape of a buoy, dictates the side on which they are to be passed when entering from seaward. This system is known as the Lateral System, Red Right Return. The three R's.

Nun Buoy: Conical shape, solid red, even numbered - indicates the right side of the channel and must be passed on your Starboard side. (Fig. #1)

Can Buoy: Cylindrical shape, solid black, odd numbered - indicates the left side of the channel and must be passed on your Port side. (Fig. #2)

Mid-Channel or Fairway Buoy: Black-and-white, vertically striped buoy, lettered (optional), never numbered - shape has no significance. May be passed on either side. (Fig. #3)

Junction or Obstruction Buoy: Red and black, horizontally banded, lettered (optional), never numbered - shape has no significance. If the topmost band is black, the preferred channel will be followed by keeping the buoy on your Port side. If the topmost band is red, the preferred channel will be followed by keeping the buoy on your Starboard side. (Fig. #4)

Buoys of significant importance have lights to alert the mariner to a particular situation. Many buoys have horns, sirens, bells, whistles, radar reflectors, and optical reflectors.

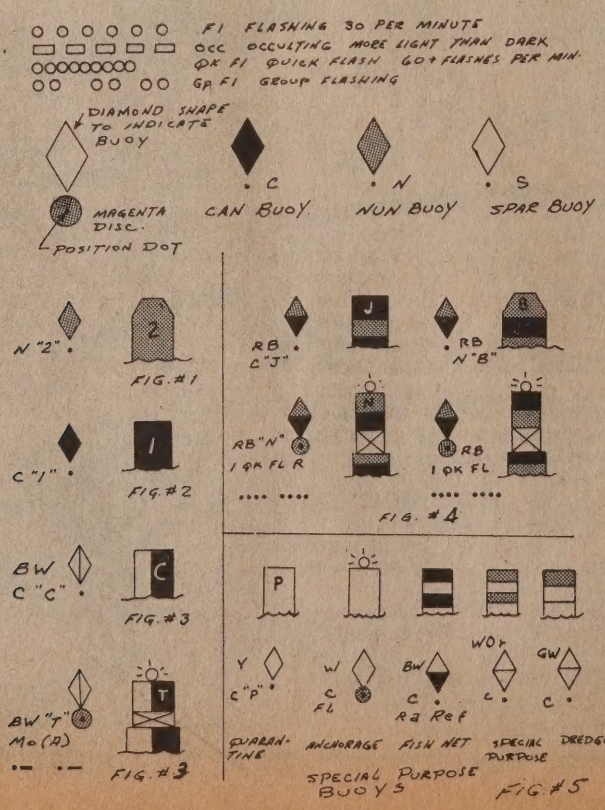
Lights: Solid red buoys have red lights that are either quick flashing; flashing or occulting. Solid black buoys have green lights that are either quick flashing, flashing or occulting. The mid-channel buoy has a white light with a light character all its own; consisting of a short flash, followed by a long flash, simply known as Morse Code A - Mo(A). There are about 8-10 (short-long) flashers per minute.

If the top band is red on the obstruction or junction buoy, the light is red. Should the top band be black, the light will be green. This buoy has its own light character, and it's identified by a quick flashing light, with interruptions of darkness and, therefore, it is called an interrupted, quick-flashing light. Light character: a flashing light flashes approximately 30 times per minute; while the occulting light is a steady light, interrupted by short periods of darkness. The quick flashing light will flash at about 60 times per minute.

Buoys are indicated on your chart by a diamond shape with a black dot. Regardless of where the diamond is pointing or placed, the position of that buoy is the black dot. The newer charts now use a black circle to indicate the approximate position of that buoy. The word "approximate" means just that; use extreme caution. If the buoy has a light, it will be indicated by a magenta (reddish-purple) disc on your chart. I always tell my students: **Never make an assumption** in navigation, but the following is an exception to the rule. If the color of the light is not designated on the chart, then you can safely assume it is white.

Last, but certainly not least, is a group of buoys called Special Purpose. They have absolutely no lateral significance and, therefore, may be passed on any side. These buoys may only display a white light, flashing or occulting, and are lettered (optional) never numbered. (Fig. #5).

Yellow Buoy - Quarantine area; White Buoy - Anchorage area; Black-and-white Horizontally banded - Fish net area



White and Orange horizontally banded - Special purpose; Ex: artificial reef; shellfish area, etc.; Green-and-white Horizontal banded - dredging and surveying.

The Dinosaur has vanished and the lightship is not far behind. However, the lightship is being replaced by a stationary structure called Texas Towers. They serve the same purpose as lighthouses marking the entrance to important harbors, inlets, dangerous conditions, lying in the path of heavy traffic.

GP F1 (2) 10 sec 181 ft 22M. Recognize this light and its character? The light character of this tower is described as follows: Displays a group of two flashes of white light every ten seconds. The light which is 181 feet high at mean high water, and is visible for 22 miles, assuming the height of the observer's eye is 15 feet above sea level. If you said Montauk—wrong. Fire Island Inlet—correct. This proves that lighthouses have different light characters from each other. Know the ones in your area. To reinforce this fact, let's try one more: F1 R 2-1/2 sec 33 ft 7M HORN. This would be identified as follows: Flashing red light every 2½ seconds, which is 33 feet high at mean high water and is visible for seven miles, assuming the height of the observer's eye is 15 feet above sea level. The distance in which these lights can be seen is measured in nautical miles, which is 6076.1 compared to statute miles, which is 5280 feet. How many times have you heard "you could see for twenty miles in any direction, it was that clear." The fact of the matter is, that if it were a perfectly clear day and your eye was 15 feet above sea level, visibility would be approximately 4.4 nautical miles in any direction, horizon to horizon. This is due to the curvature of the earth. Binoculars really do not let you see further; they just magnify the object.

Not many mariners understand the purpose of a daymark. These aids to navigation are shown on your chart in the form of a red or black triangle. These shapes are supported on one or more pilings. Three or more pilings, separated at the base and joined together at the top, is called a dolphin. As you might suspect, these aids are fixed and not floating for a good reason. They are generally placed in shallow water where a vessel with a deep draft could not navigate to service the "aids." Daybeacons marking the sides of a channel will carry a red triangle with an even number, black square with an odd number. These signs are generally equipped with a reflective material for nighttime use. Within these triangles or squares, you may see black-and-white vertical stripes or red-and-black horizontal bands. Treat these as you would a mid-channel or junction buoy.

Private aids to navigation must have the proper approval, and this information can be obtained from U. S. Coast Guard. If it is a fixed aid, then a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers is required. Private aids must conform to, and have the same appearance, as Coast Guard maintained aids. Should you want to expand your knowledge—and the wise skipper should—read "Chapman's Piloting, Seamanship and Small Boat Handling." There is a particular book that is sold for around $5, by the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary: "Boating Skills and Seamanship." **Just Excellent.**

Last, but not least, are two publications that you should be aware of; namely, the Light List and Notice to Mariners. Light List can be obtained for a small charge by writing: Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, or from local agents listed in the weekly "Notice to Mariners." Light List, Atlantic Coast, Volume 1 (CG-158) describing aids to navigation, lighthouses, buoys, etc., in all navigable waters in the United States maintained by the U. S. Coast Guard and private agencies. The text of this material contains - light character, appearance, position, sound radar reflector, etc. Volume 1 (CG-158) from the St. Croix River, Maine, to Little River, So. Carolina.

Notice to Mariners keeps you informed on channel conditions, menaces to navigation; in general, the safety of navigation to the mariner.

Local Notice to Mariner may be obtained free of charge by applying to the Coast Guard district in which your boat is operated.

Bet you thought I forgot to give the answer for F1R 2-1/2 sec. 33 ft. 7 mi HORN. 'Jones Inlet."

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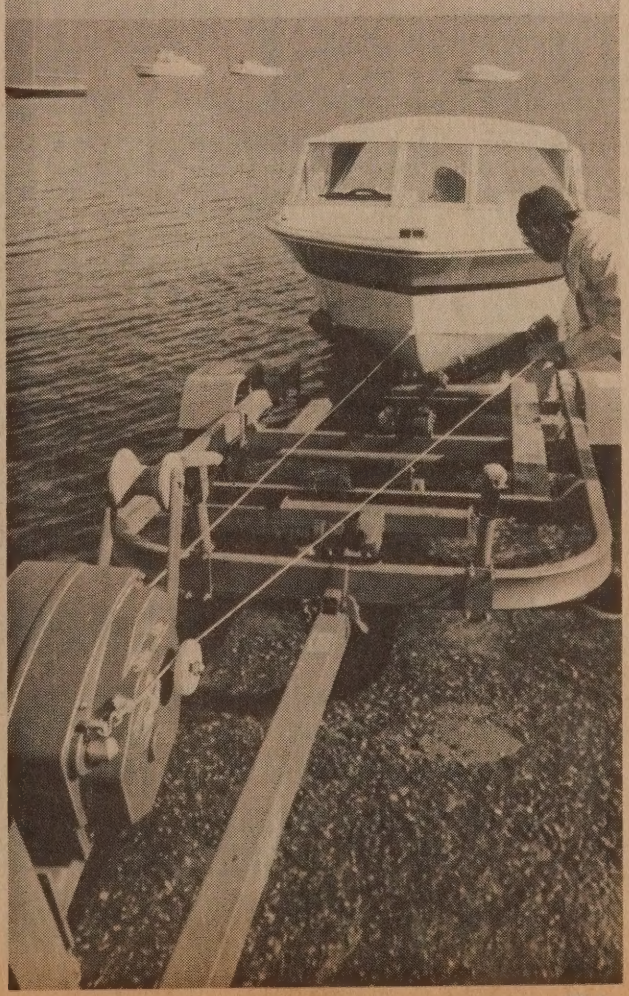


# Sea Basket

*by John V. Konior*

My nine-year-old daughter had been reminding me for sometime now, "Daddy, you promised to take me on a party boat." she chirped. Maria wasn't quite the fisherperson her brothers were, and didn't enjoy their company too much when we fished our own boat. Her brothers had already been out on party boats and Maria was envious, although she didn't show it openly. Therefore, before kissing me good night, she always managed a little dig in private. It was with some reluctance, caught in a weak mood, that I mentioned that the party boats were doing pretty good offshore, and after all the weatherman was predicting some pretty good weather on Saturday. Maria's eyes lit up and it wasn't long before she snuck up to me and asked whether she could go fishing with me. After responding with the usual excuses about rough weather, a lot of men on board, etc., etc., her impish look finally convinced me to take her along. It was like breaking a dam; the next few hours were filled by her incessant chatter about the trip. It was quite late that evening before I could convince her to get to bed—let alone sleep.

It was mid-July, and the party boats had been advertising good catches of fluke, sea bass, etc. I poured over the ads trying to decide what to go after. The fluke boats would be nice and easy (thinking of Maria). On the other hand, Maria might enjoy catching a lot of fish. My mind was made up: sea bass it would be.

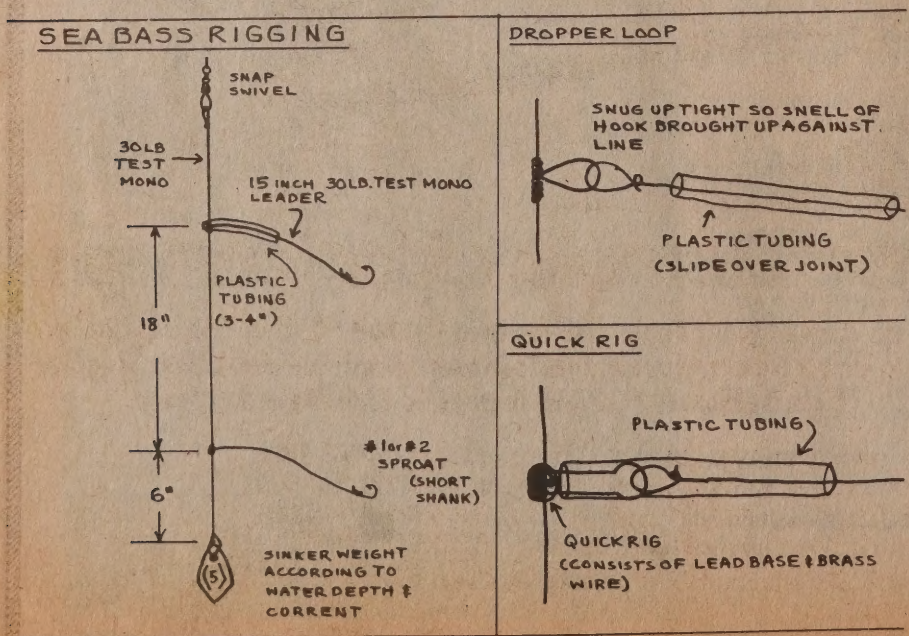
Despite the season, I made it a point to get Maria bundled up the next day. "Better off taking something off than not having it," I decided. Maria was bleary-eyed from lack of sleep, since we had gotten up at 4:30 a.m. After a quick breakfast, we were on our way to Freeport, and boarded the boat in plenty of time for sailing. The boat wasn't crowded, so I selected a nice spot along the side where we could sit down. By this time, Maria was excited again, wanting to know when the boat would sail, would she catch a shark, was it dangerous, she was hungry, then thirty, etc., etc., and finally, we sailed (none too soon). As luck would have it, the forever unpredictable weatherman was wrong again. Instead of a bright, warm and windless day, there was a gloomy haze settling on the water as we crossed under the Point Lookout Bridge on our way to Jones Inlet. As we approached the inlet, an uncomfortable swell greeted us, and a chilly southwest wind sent shivers down my spine.

Maria's cheerfulness seemed to dissipate as we plodded through the inlet, and headed into the teeth of the southwesterner, rolling all the way. My daughter's face took on an unhealthy pallor, and I feared the worst. I coaxed her to lie down in the cabin, and in a short while, she fell asleep. The trip to the wreck was short, and after awhile, the double anchor had been set, and the short toot signaling to start fishing, was sounded. I checked my daugher; she was still sleeping soundly. "Okay," I thought, and proceeded to bait up with the sliced skimmer the captain had provided. Before the sinker had a chance to hit bottom, I sensed someone at my side. It was Maria! "Well, Daddy," she said, "where's my rod?"

As poorly as the day had seemingly started, as it progressed it turned out to be a very fine day. The fish were biting fantastically, and I had all I could do throughout most of the day to keep one rod baited—which I turned over to Maria—and removed fish from the other which she reeled up. This procesure was repeated over and over, with time out only for lunch, etc. By the end of the day, we had quite a haul. Maria, up to the end was valiantly reeling up fish after fish, and even had the pool fish—a sea bass going to four pounds. But, the Fairy Tale ending was not to be, because an angler fishing the stern hauled up a nice fluke, which turned out to be the pool winner. Despite the minor setback, Maria was as happy as a lark and slept with a smile all the way back to the dock.

Catch of the day was primarily sea bass, with a few strangler ling, and the one fluke. However, the sea bass were very cooperative. Rigging played an important role in catching fish this day. Most anglers were using a tandem hook set-up tied directly above the sinker. My rig consisted of a single #1 Sproat, tied about six inches above the sinker, with a second one tied about 18 inches above the first hook. Despite the slight roll, I was able to hold bottom with a five ounce sinker. Baiting up also played an important role. Using only one slice of clam, I carefully threaded the hard (foot) part first, leaving the soft belly end to dangle beyond the hook. This method worked fine, and was far more effective than loading up with clam or threading on the soft part of the clam first. Despite my daughter's age, she had fished quite a bit before, and was good at listening to instructions. She quickly got the knack of waiting a few seconds before setting the hook, slowly raising the rod a few feet when a fish bit. When the lift was as high as she could reach, she only then set the hook, with a quick and firm jerk of the rod. And "BANG," down went the rod, and she had all she could do to reel up. More often than not, the slow lift method was responsible for her landing double-headers. Larger fish were almost always caught on the high hook.

It wasn't long before the other anglers began to take notice and crowded around, and ultimately a few adopted the high hook, using the slow lift method and began to catch fish. Maria was in her glory, being the center of attention. To her credit, she was a good fisherman; but her success was no accident. As mentioned above, hook size, rigging and method played an important part of her

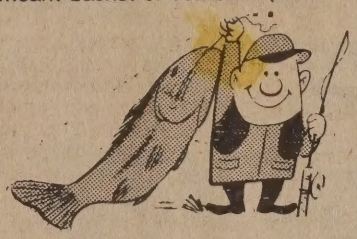

SEA BASS RIGGING
SNAP SWIVEL
30LB TEST MONO
15 INCH 30LB. TEST MONO LEADER
PLASTIC TUBING (3-4")
18"
6"
#1 or #2 SPROAT (SHORT SHANK)
SINKER WEIGHT ACCORDING TO WATER DEPTH & CURRENT
DROPPER LOOP
SNUG UP TIGHT SO SNELL OF HOOK BROUGHT UP AGAINST LINE
PLASTIC TUBING (SLIDE OVER JOINT)
QUICK RIG
PLASTIC TUBING
QUICK RIG (CONSISTS OF LEAD BASE & BRASS WIRE)

success.

The hooks and method used have, over the years, proved extremely productive. Sea bass have extremely large mouths for the their size. As such, a large hook will greatly assist you in catching them. Various hook patterns can be used, but I've found the #1 or #2 Sproat (short shank) the best overall hook for sea bass. I snell these hooks myself using a 15 inch leader of 30 pound test mono. As explained previously, attaching one hook six inches above the sinker, with the second 18 inches above the first hook, works best, as opposed to tying two hooks directly above the sinker. It appears that the higher hooks are allowed to life in the current, making the bait more noticeable, attractive, or whatever; but it works. Sinker weights are relative, but the rule to follow is to put sufficient weight which will allow you to hold bottom. Not enough weight, and your rig will drift with the current, resulting in a snagged rig (since you're generally fishing a wreck or rocky bottom for sea bass), or a tangle with another angler. Too much weight and you'll detract from the fight of the fish, and make it that much harder to reel in.

To prevent tangling of the high hook, I employ a little trick. I slip on a four-inch piece of clear plastic tubing (aquarium tubing) over the snell at the point where the snell and line join. The tubing serves to keep the snell from tangling with the line, and being clear, is virtually invisible to the fish. Hooks may be joined to the line using a dropper loop, snugged tight or a quick rig (see illustration). As mentioned previously, sea bass fishing is predominantly over wrecks or rocky bottoms where you're quite apt to hang-up. To prevent a lot of lost time, I pre-rig several rigs which I attach to the line by means of a snap swivel(which also serves to minimize line twisting). By employing these techniques, I'm sure you can be as successful as my daughter. By the way, she still hasn't let me forget that she caught the most fish and the biggest fish on that trip. She's also getting around to bugging me again to take her out, but this time for cod. At this point, I don't know what excuses I can use.

Oh, by the way, the title of this article was no accident. In my daughter's enthusiasm to blurt out the amount of fish we caught, she told her Mom that we had a lot of sea baskets, when she meant basket of sea bass (or did she?).

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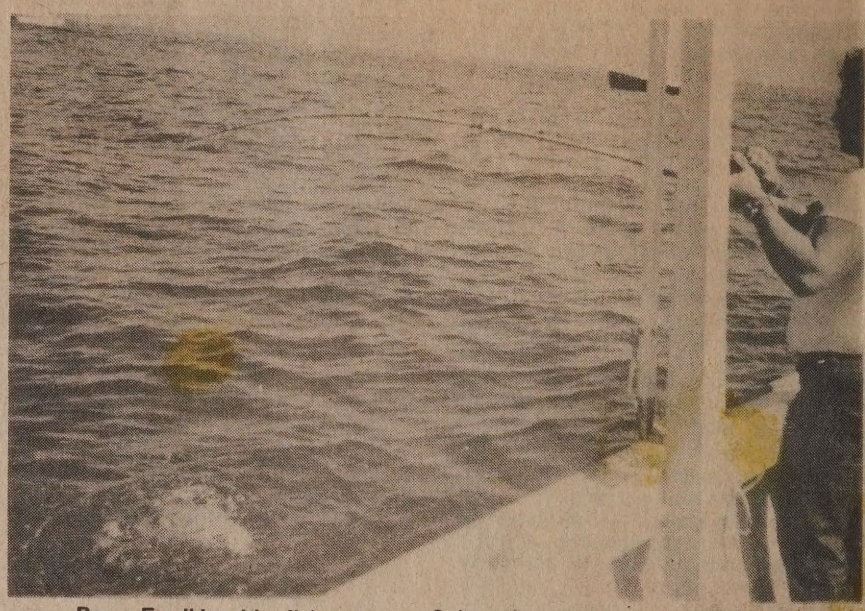
# SUBMARINE BLUES

*by Ron Onorato*

While much of the Long Island area was mourning the lack of bluefish, one part of the Island was pretty well stocked with the big slammers; waters East of Montauk Point were fairly well stocked with big blues, and the fishing held up fairly well through the season. It seemed as if these were the only bluefish in the entire Northeast region, for boats from as far as Greenport and Point Judith, Rhode Island were fishing these waters on a daily basis. Unlike years gone by when the blues would be solid in and around the shallow water of the Montauk area, last year's blue rarely made any forays into shallow water and, for the most part, stayed in the deeper waters to the East. In fact, the blues seemed content to stay around Block Island waters throughout the year; only the Cartwright Grounds, which lies about seven miles south of the Point, had any consistent activity. The legendary Race was a total washout as far as the blues were concerned.



**Bruce Frodl has bluefish on top, as Submarine Buoy looms in background.**

Most of the bluefish activity was concentrated around the area known as the Submarine buoy. This buoy marks a ledge that rises from 80 feet of water, all the way up to 30 feet of water. On the top of the ledge, sand eels swarmed by the millions, and it was this that held the blues. The buoy lies about eight miles East of Montauk Point, and isn't too far from Block Island's fabled Southwest Ledge. This year was a little different than most, however. For reasons known only to the blues, they seldom were found on the ledge itself, as they have been in past years. Most of the fish were in the deeper part of the slope, and rarely moved. This was true also at Southwest ledge; the fish seldom moved onto the ledge itself, but remained in the deeper water to the South and East. Despite the presence of huge schools of sand eels in many of the inshore rips, the blues were quite content to feed in the deeper water.

The fact that the blues remained deep for so long, presented the trollers with a slight problem. "How was it possible to get the lures down the 50 to 70 feet of water where the blues were?" Occasionally, the blues moved a little closer to the surface, and the wireline trollers got a shot at them. But this usually entailed using 350 feet of wire, and, in some cases, a drail was needed on top of that. This cumbersome set-up brought many people to the realization that there had to be an easier way. And indeed there was an easier way—squidding with diamond jigs. Bluefishermen along the South Shore of Long Island, and around New Jersey, realized the value of the diamond jig a long time ago. When the blues are feeding heavily on bait, it is difficult to hold them in a chum slick. They found that rather than trying to set up an elaborate chum slick, it would be more productive to have their fares cast diamond jigs. It didn't take too long for the idea to catch on at Montauk.

Let's take a look at the basic concept of diamond jigging, or "squidding" as it is sometimes called. First, the diamond jig itself. For the longest period of time, the diamond jig that was most often used was the standard Bridgeport Diamond Jig. It came armed with an enormous treble hook, which most fishermen found extremely difficult to extract from the jaws of a chomping blue. Most fishermen modified the jig a bit by removing the treble and replacing it with a single hook. The single hook was easy to remove from the fish's mouth and when mounted on a barrel swivel, didn't allow the fish to get any leverage to tear the hook free. The eye of the single hook was bent open, and a 150 pound test barrel swivel was slipped into the open eye before it was crimped shut. The barrel swivel was then attached to the jig by means of a big split ring. It worked reasonably well, and most fishermen were content with it. Another problem was the split rings: the blues would make short work of even the strongest of them. After a couple of fish, they would weaken and eventually break.

Fortunately, we found a good alternative. Rather than equip the jig with a large treble hook, the manufacturers of the Ava jig molded the barrel swivel right onto the eye of the hook and the eye of the jig. The plating job on the Ava jig is also very durable; it takes a lot of blues before the plating begins to wear off. Bridgeport now also makes a single hook jig that works well.

Regardless of the type of jig used, the chrome-plated piece of metal is meant to imitate sand eels, basically. When the fish are feeding heavily on sand eels, this is the baby to use. Actually, even if the fish aren't feeding on sand eels, they will usually hit a jig.

The actual squidding itself is relatively easy once you've found the feeding zone of the fish. If you're on an open party boat, then the captain does the work. He'll advise you as to what level the fish are at, and you concentrate your efforts thereat. When you're on your own, you'll have to scout out the fish. A good paper recorder is an absolute must for those days when the fish are scattered, or are hanging near the bottom. Here it is a matter of running to a predetermined location and scouting around until the fish are found.

The jig has its basic application when the fish are deep, or when they are moving quickly and feeding on schools of small bait fish. Out at Montauk, the fish seem to favor several feeding areas and are usually found there, although the fish can show up virtually anywhere. Along the South Shore of Long Island, or off the New Jersey shore, the fish are not as consistent in their feeding habits. Much of the bottom is uniform, and the fish will range over wide open stretches of ocean as they pursue the schools of

ait fish. They may be five miles off the each one day, and the next day be 25 iiles offshore. The exception to this, is ie offshore wreck and reefs—such as ie Cholera Banks off Jones Inlet, and ie Shrewsbury Rocks off Jersey. These /recks and reefs seem to hold a number f blues throughout much of the season. Although Long Island Sound hasn't had sizable body of blues since 1973, when ney do come in, they often favor many f the reefs and shoals that lie near nid-Sound.

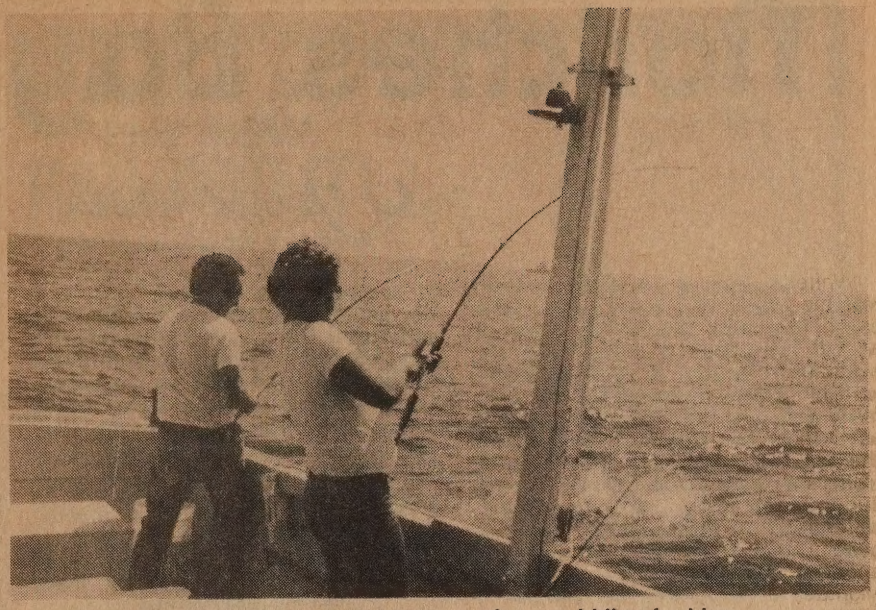
The use of the jig is basically a simple ask when used with the proper tackle. First, let's take a look at the type of reels hat are the most effective. The reel that vill stand up to the most punishment is he Penn 3/0 Special Senator with the ast retrieve. There is no real need to go iny heavier than 20 pound mono when ised with this reel. Other reels that are ised, include the Penn Jigmaster and he Squidder. Both of these reels have pretty fast retrieves, and come equipped with metal spools, which should always be used when you squid for blues.

The rod can vary according to the size of the fish you're seeking, and the conditions under which you're fishing. You don't want a very soft rod, but one that has a fairly fast taper. You can be flexible in your selection of rods to suit your needs.

Where you will be fishing will determine the size of the jig you'll be using. The first thing to remember is that the lighter the pound test mono on the spool, the lighter the weight of the ig that is necessary. The finer the iameter of the mono, the less water esistance it creates, and allows you to stay with lighter jigs. The Ava jig—which is perhaps the most popular jig on the market—ranges in weights from three to eight ounces. It is extremely unlikely that you'll ever need more than eight ounces of weight, even at Montauk. Usually four or six ounces are used, depending on the strength of the tide and the wind. There are times when the three ounce jig is used effectively. The first, and foremost thing to do is to find out what level the fish are at.

Out at Montauk, there is almost always a fast tide going, and for the most part, the fish are found deep. Logically, the best place to start squidding is right from the bottom. Squidding for blues is no more than allowing the jig to settle to the bottom and rapidly retrieving it to varying levels of the water. About the hardest part of the deal is trying to prevent a birds-nest from developing on the spool after the jig has touched bottom. The way to avoid this is to keep your left thumb on the spool as you le the jig down, with just enough pressure to keep the line from overrunning. The jig is cranked back to the surface with the right hand.

Once bottom is felt, the jig is cranked rapidly off the bottom towards the surface; there is no need to bring the jig right up to the top, but rather stop the retrieve a few feet under. Sooner or later, you're going to find out where the blues are. Sometimes they are right off the bottom, and other times, they will be several feet above it. Once it is established at what level they are,



**Double hook-ups were common when squidding for blues.**

**Bruce Frodl bounces a small blue aboard, taken with diamond jig.**

concentrate your efforts there. Why waste time retrieving the jig all the way up, if the fish are a couple of feet off the bottom?

Once you've got the fish located, the trick is not to lose them. When the fish are settled off the Sub Buoy, or at Southwest Ledge off Block Island, there are buoys right there to give you a bit of an aid, and the blues will usually hang at one location for an entire tide. It's just a matter of pulling the boat up-tide of the piece where the fish are and making drifts with the tide over the ground. If the fish are not settled into one particular area, then it is very easy to lose the fish. They may show up on the machine, and they may not. Sometimes you'll get into a couple of fish and by the time you boat the fish, you'll have drifted off the school. It's amazing how fast a school of blues will travel: one second they are stacked ten deep under the boat, and the next second they are gone, never to be found again. As a rule, when the fish are established over a wreck or reef, they seldom stray far from the area, but just move around the same general area a bit; it's on the open ocean that the blues seem hardest to pin down.

There's no question when a blue takes a jig, you'll be reeling quickly and then all of a sudden the jig stops, and you're in business. Unless the blues are super heavy, tie direct to your line, and avoid the use of wire leaders. It was proven to me, time and time again, that the wire leader diminishes the effectiveness of the jig. When the blues are deep, there is no better way to get them up than with the jig, and there is a lot more sport than dragging a quarter mile of wire.

# Moriches Bay Fluke

*by Gerald Hahn*

Moriches Bay is located on Long Island's South Shore between Great South Bay and Shinnecock Bay. It extends for about 12 miles from the Smith Point Bridge to the first Westhampton Bridge and separtes the Long Island mainland from the eastern end of Fire Island and Westhampton Beach. Compared to many other Bays in Long Island, Moriches Bay is safe and shallow (about six feet in the deeper holes), and the bottom is mostly sand, mud, or gravel rather than rocky. Snagging is rare here. Water moves through the bay by means of the Moriches Inlet which, in contrast to the bay itself, is one of the most treacherous in Long Island. Consequently, the first rule for the small boat fisherman, here, is to stay out of the inlet. For justifiable reasons, as will be seen shortly, locals call Moriches Bay, "fluke and flounder alley."

There are over a dozen fishing stations located in the towns adjacent to the bay including: Mastic Beach, the Moriches, Eastport, and Remsenburg. Check the ads in the L.I.F. Most of these can be found easily while heading east from the William Floyd Parkway on Rte. 27A in general, you can rent a boat without a reservation although during the peak of the fluke season—June to September—it's wise to make one, especially if you plan to fish on a weekend. It is also useful to call because fishing stations, here, have different hours; ranging from 6:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. and returning 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Some stations have special rates on certain days. The cost varies from $14-$20 for a 16 foot rowboat or skiff and motor (add on the cost of bait). Four people on a boat is maximum. Of course, if you own a small boat, you can launch it near the Smith Point Bridge, town launching ramps, or for a nominal fee, from the fishing stations.

A word about fluke at Moriches Bay before we proceed. The fluke is a "left-handed flounder." Unlike the flounder, it is equipped with sharp teeth. Another difference is size; flounders here weigh between one-half to one-and-a-half pounds, whereas fluke average between two to four pounds—five and six pounds not being uncommon.

Fluke usually arrive at Moriches Bay in full force at the beginning of June, although with the warm weather this year, greater numbers will probably arrive in May. However, patterns change. Last year was one of the best fluke seasons ever at Moriches Bay, but many of the fish were shorts (14" is the minimum legal size). Two years ago, there were fewer fish, but they were larger. Strangely enough, at that time, the largest fish were caught in June and not in August; but the larger ones were thin, while the smaller ones caught later were well fed. Hopefully, this season will bring the right combination of size and numbers, although last September many fishing station owners complained about commercial fishermen waiting just outside of the inlet with nets and hauling in fluke with abandon.

Fishing for fluke at Moriches Bay, as in many places, is best when drifting. Fluke prefer a moving bait. The idea is to explore a number of likely spots and to drift over these until you get a hit. Then, try to shorten the distance of subsequent drifts over the same area. If, after several attempts nothing happens, move to another spot. There is no consistently best time to catch fluke in Moriches Bay. Sometimes, fluke will be caught chiefly during an incoming tide, while on other days, during the outgoing tide. Just before or after the turn of either tide is best. It is a rare day when fluke will be in on both tides in equal numbers. Consequently, you have to work for them and you should plan to use all the rental time, because a morning can pass hitless and suddenly, you will be into many fish within an hour or two. Generally, I catch about 20 fluke in a day. I have seen other anglers return with as many as 40, but also others come back skunked. The latter are usually newcomers to this area or to fluke fishing who either did not drift to try a number of different spots during the day. A few used the wrong rigs or bait.

Tackle can consist of light to medium bay or spinning rods with matching reels. Ten pound test is adequate for this bay. The hi-lo rig is favored here. Long shanked, Carlisle, Sproat, or O'Shaughnessy hooks, sizes 2/0 to 4/0 will handle most of the fluke here. These should be tied onto 30 pound leader material, two to three feet long and attached to the hi-lo rig, which is generally set up with three foot intervals. Or you can fashion your own rig, using a four foot length of 30 pound test mono with dropper loops (or three-way swivels) and spaced at the same intervals for the snelled hooks. A one ounce bank sinker, tied or clipped on (the hi-lo rig comes with a snap) about six to twelve inches below the bottom hook completes the rig and is of adequate weight. I find that the use of spinning blades on the snells increases catches; the flashing blades attract more fluke.

Bait varies at Moriches and depends upon the type of bait fish in the Bay. For example, two years, killies (mummichog) seemed to predominate and this bait fished live was murder. Last summer, sand eels were all over the bay and these were visible on many rigs. They seem to be showing up again this season. Unfortunately, sand eels are sold frozen, as are spearing which also work well. Neither can survive too long in captivity. Any of these baits work best when combined with a strip of squid that is cut from the mantle to about three inches long, one-half inch wide at one end and tapered to a point at the other. Peel off the speckled skin so that the white flesh is visible and hook it near the wide end. The killy is sold live at most fishing stations and the owner will provide you with a bait box, which is tied to the boat and allowed to remain in the water. One of the best ways to hook a killie is through the lips. This keeps is it alive longer and attracts fluke by its movement. Add a strip of squid to the same hook: between the increased visibility of the white color and the wriggling action of the killie, this combination can be deadly. However, at times, a lip-hooked killie will result in short strikes. When this happens, pass the hook through the mouth and out of the gill cover. Then hook it just behind the dorsal fin. This is more secure but, remember, the killy will not live as long. Spearing and sand eels should also be hooked according to the last method. Usually, I try several kinds of bait fish and put one of each on the two-hook rig with squid. When I fish with friends, we try several combinations and then we can see which is on the menu for the day. Occasionally, I have caught fluke at Moriches Bay with a small metal lure tipped with squid, although in general, lures are better for catching doormats in the ocean or other, deeper bays.

Fluke will hit these baits in a variety of ways. In general, they tend to be boat shy and you should let out between 50-100 feet of line when drifting. Sometimes, you will detect a sharp strike and the fluke practically hooks itself. At other times, it merely mouths the bait. This is signalled as a light tap. In such cases, I pause and even let out some line until the fish swallows the bait and its weight is felt on the line. Then, I set the hook. The hi-lo rig allows for covering several levels of water. Unlike flounders, fluke are fast swimmers and many are caught on the top hook. A few times, I caught fluke on the surface just as I was about to bring the rig out of the water. A net is essential for boating a fluke, because it tends to swirl around on the surface and can shake a hook easily as it is being lifted out of the water. Place the net gently, slightly under the fish and guide the fluke in head first. The long shanked hook makes removal easier, but care should be taken. Although fluke are

not as vicious as bluefish, they have sharp teeth; a hook disgorger makes it easier. Should you want more detailed information on tackle, rigs, methods, etc., I refer you to Scott Simons' book on fluke fishing, which can be ordered through the L.I.F.

Finding likely spots at Moriches Bay is not difficult. The buoys are higher in number as you head east and the deeper holes are generally near them. The ones numbered in the 30s, off the Coast Guard Station, northeast of the inlet, are very good. Further east, there is a large deep area near buoy 42 and working toward the mainland or still furhter east, to buoy 43. Ask the fishing station owner about the "old and new cuts" leading to the inlet. For quantity, this area can be most productive; for size, too. Last year, near the end of the season, an angler caught a doormat fluke of around 19 pounds in this vicinity. He was livelining a snapper. To the west of the inlet, try buoy 29. There is a smaller, deep hole west of buoy 28 which is worth investigating. You can locate this spot by aligning the boat between a reddish-brown house on the mainland and Great Gunn Beach Pier on Fire Island. Stay slightly closer to the mainland. Buoys numbered in the low 20s along the channel where the bay is narrow can be excellent, especially if the wind allows you to drift diagonally across it. However, you have to watch out for boat traffic here. There are a number of small holes off Fire Island, near Great Gunn Beach, but these can be difficult to locate and the beginner will do better to work the other areas mentioned until he becomes more familiar with this bay. It is wise to look at a map and decide which part of the bay you want to cover. It is pointless to rent a boat near the Smith Point Bridge and then decide to fish near buoy 42. It can take over an hour to get from the inlet to Mastic Beach with a 6½ h.p. motor. There are enough good spots in each part of the bay, and you do not want to spend half the day riding around aimlessly. Plan your trip on a relatively calm day. Wait (if you can) a few days if the weather has been stormy; the bay becomes unclear and full of seaweed. Remember though, a slight breeze is essential for drifting.

During the beginning of the fluke season, it is possible to combine a day of fluke fishing with a few hours of trying for school sized weakfish and snapper blues here. At dawn, try buoys 23 to 25 or further west in the vicinity of the bridge. Anchor in the deeper water near one of the many sand bars here and cast artificials toward the bar. Locals use metal, e.g., Hopkins or Kastmaster up to an ounce, small poppers and swimmers, e.g., Rebel or Rapala lures. Color varies too. I have seen everything from green poppers to transparent swimmers work. Of course, it is best if the tide is changing at this time. These runs usually end by 8 AM. Night fishing can be great for these species, but that requires another article. Meanwhile, try fluke fishing at Moriches Bay. You won't regret it.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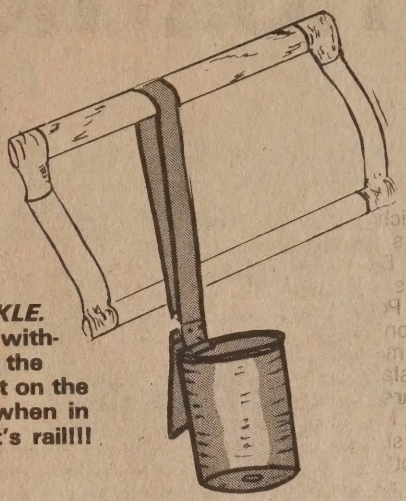

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# LURE LOGIC

## by Dick Mermon

**WITH THE VARIOUS TYPE LURES** available in color, size and shape, one can only stand bewildered as to why some catch more fish than others. Each manufacturer has their own reasoning behind a lure, the action it executes, and why it should perform the way it does.

There are two types of swimming lures. One, where the motion is generated by an angle cut in the head and second, a small protrusion is placed or molded into the front of the lure.

A narrow insert, or lip as it is called, infixed into the lure's head creates a very fast, erratic wobble of the lure body. Rarely does this type bait dive deeper than two feet under the surface when retrieved. Rebel, Rapala and Red Fin are a few such type lures for subsurface swimming. The thin lip, or living movement piece, wobbles the entire body of the lure from side to side as though it is about to roll over.

Widening of the insert or lip causes the lure to descend greater depths without changing its erotic motion. This is affected by greater water pressure on the wider lip, driving it deeper. A lip piece, two inches wide and two inches long will send a lure 15 feet deep. Several large mouth bass lures are designed to reach this depth, such as Bomer, Helbender, Water Dog, and Deep Dan.

Flat lips, rounded at the base, change the pattern of rhythm of the lure it controls. Now instead of a roll type action, there is a greater whole body movement. Should this type diving plane insert be lengthened and widened, the body will even reach further depths. These lures which reach a vast penetration are for fish that refuse to come up after baits.

Each angle that the lure's lip is placed or molded will change the vibrating movement, depth of descent and total body action. A vertical lip, with no angle whatsoever, swims in a wide, back and forth motion. Place the lip upwards to a 25 degree angle and it will dive deeper with a very fast wobble. These are short, quick, side to side impulses.

Metal lips, attached to the lures head fashion a multitude of actions, depending whether the activating device is concave, similar to a spade, flat with folded sides, as a shovel, or just plain "Z" shaped with rounded corners.

A spade shaped lip drives its body to reach four or five feet in length with fast tail wobbling action and no side to side movement. It is as though the head of the lure swims straight, while the tail section vibrates frantically, as in the case of a Pflueger Mustang.

The shovel lip is a semi-surface lure, never going deeper than a foot below the water. This plug will shake in its entire length and at the same time roll back and forth, such as the old Atom 40 and Pflueger Pal-O-Mine.

"Z" lip lures are the easiest of all artificials to tune or adjust because of the metal the action device is made from. These are usually small tin or stainless steel wedge pieces, placed and held in the head by the front line eye of the lure. A "Z" lip lure will have a combined action of all the other baits and a wide back and forth movement at the same time.

When lower lips are bent downward, the more vibrant the tail becomes. Should the metal lip of the lure become slightly off from its horizontal position the lure will lose some of its erratic motion, giving up to an offset swimming drift, or pulling to one side. When this occurs, a slight twist of the lip to the opposite angle will revive the proper performance. Large lures vibrate less than small ones due to the size of the action plates. Reasoning is that large prey swim easy, whereas small bait propel very rapidly to escape elimination.

Angle cut lures, like darters, bottle plugs, wiggle swimmers, vibrators, and flat heads are designed to bring into being various type injured baitfish.

Long flat heads of darter character, give the lures diving ability to a depth required, while the cross cut section, which looks like the lure's mouth, adds needed movement. Basically, a lure to be used in a rip or moving type water, it receives its name from the action developed by the movement, "darting." This lure does just that. It darts from side to side in long sweeps and at the same instant, wiggles rapidly in short bursts.

Small darters, with short flat cuts on the top of the head, are retrieved slowly along the surface, producing a surface swimming baitfish with head just under the water. The tail section moves very slowly simulating a leisurely swimming bait.

Long, thin flatheads, which have no mouth cuts are designed to be fished deep. As it is pulled against the resistance of the water, the lure reacts as if injured and is trying to right itself. Its action is crazy, fast vibrating, wobbly and a side to side movement combination. Because of shape, the higher the line attachment eye is placed upwards on the body of the lure, the deeper and more vibrant it will perform.

Bottle shaped lures are the most erratic swimming baits available. The long wooden lip of the lure drives it downward, while the concave curvature adds the execution of an irregular, full body shaking movement with a wide sweep from side to side. It is almost indescribable in its motivation.

Wigglers and wobblers both have cut off noses at slight angles. The line eye is placed on the top of the body so that the lure may receive its action by being drawn against the resistance of the water on this slight angle. It creates an extremely short, fast, vibrating movement. These type plugs usually have molded inside their bodies a noise chamber. Within the lure, a hollow area supports a small lead roller bearing, which rattles as the lure is retrieved. This rattling sound sends out vibrations in the water and becomes an attractor to the bait not only by sight, but sound as well.

Surface lure heads are shaped in two manners. Either they are angle cut in the opposite direction of the vibrators, or a hollowed out nose is fashioned. Each are designed to splash on the surface upon being retrieved. Again a noise maker to further allurement. The bait's head must be so angled that the water will spatter and make noise within the hollowness of the head while staying on the surface.

Round nose surface lures are usually weighted in the tail section to produce a skipping activity. When the lure of this nature is stopped, the tail section submerges, permitting the front tip or head to protrude from the waters surface. The lure actually skitters along the top in a zig zag motion. In certain tail dancers of this sort, small noise chambers also may be found for additional attraction.

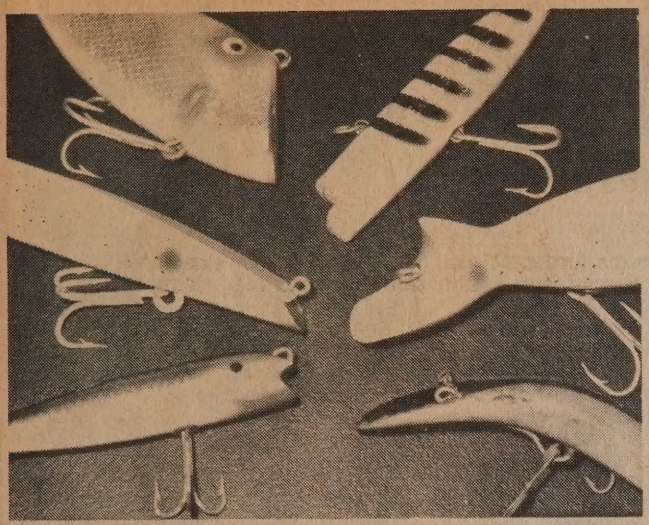
Metal or lead head lures have been with us for many years. Each has its own designs upon the fishing market as to create a type of bait that is natural to the area. Tri Fin eels have a working lead head which is very unique in both design and action. It is one of its kind throughout the world. When the rubber tube was introduced, it had to spin in the water simulating the action of a swimming eel. Tri Fin eel actually wobbles the trailing tube in such a manner that one would think it is actually swimming.

Flat lead heads, shaped to wiggle the rubber eel are also a type lure which must have water resistance to make them work. Either an imitation or natural eel is attached to this type implement, fashioning a living movement of the bait.

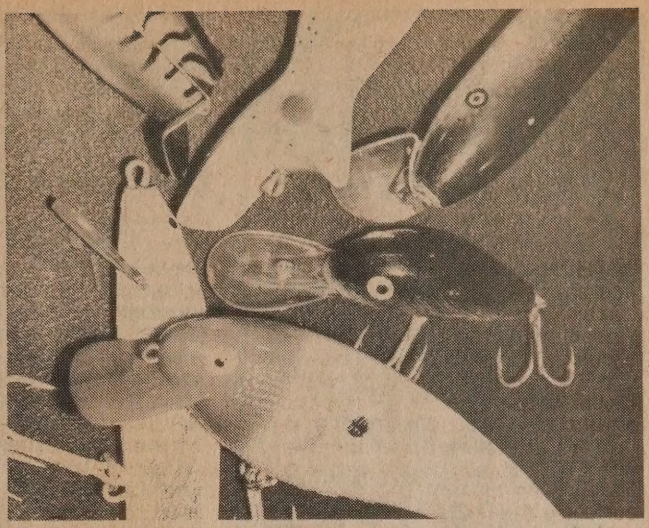
Bucktails, hair, feathers or straight tubes are all lures styled to mimic one type of bait or another from shrimp to squid. There is no definite action to these metal head imitations of bait except when given to them by the movement of the fishing rod.

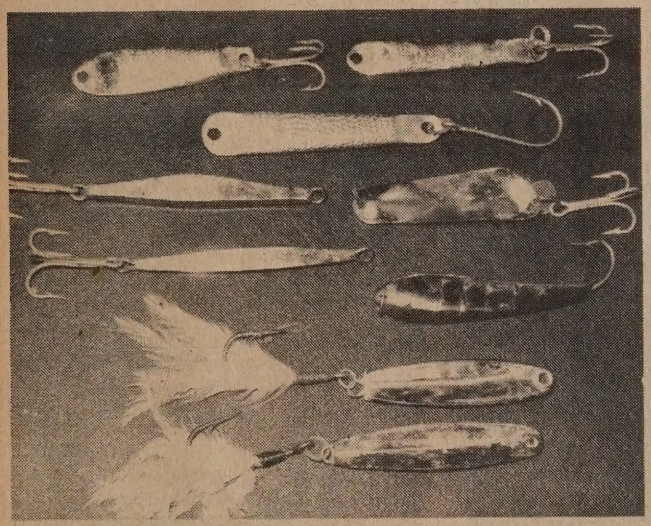
Last but not least are the metal type lures themselves. Each must wiggle in some manner and shine for attraction. All are designed to simulate certain baitfish such as sand eels, spearing, butterfish, herring, bunker or squid.

One item must be remembered when choosing a lure. Matching an imitation with the natural bait of the area is the secret in catching fish. Trout fishermen everywhere always say, "to catch fish, match the hatch."



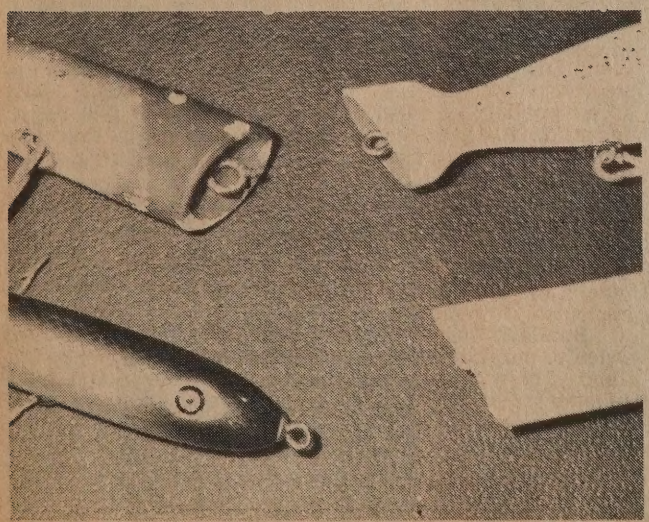
Angle heads of various types produce many different darts and wiggles. Each angle cut creates its own movement.





Shiny metal lures of various shapes and sizes are designed to mimic the different baits of certain areas.

Lip plugs will give many different wobbles at different depths, depending upon the length and width of the protruding lip.



Angle cut heads, hollowed out, are surface splashers. Noise is the feature of this lure. Tail dancers with round head, skidder and zig-zag across the surface for action needed.

Metal head lures of hair, feathers, tubes, and plastic are used for many different modes. Some require the action to be placed into them and others, with pre-formed heads will wobble the tail section.

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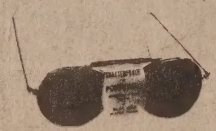

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# SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

## MONTAUK

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** reported that the codfishing is now very good at Coxes Ledge with plenty of cod from 10 to 12 pounds filling the bags. A few small pollack are also mixed in. Fluke fishing has been good on the half day trips run by the **Viking Starlite**, but the night bluefishing has been poor.

Capt. Frank of the charterboat **Hurry Up** has been doing a real number on large striped bass at night. During the week before the holiday weekend Frank said he took about 15 bass in the high 40s and after awhile stopped weighing the 30 pounders. The best night had to be Thursday when Al Daniels had 4 real cows in his catch aboard the boat. The 4 heaviest bass were 59, 52, and 2 fish in the high 40s. Frank said that he has been trolling big Goo-Goo Eye plugs known as the Big Daddy and taking 8 to 12 fish per night. On Saturday the Captain said he had a charter for shark fishing and took 17 blue shark and one brown shark for the two anglers aboard. The fish were taken in the Butterfish Hole and 15 were tagged and released.

Ron Onorato, who writes weekly for L.I.F. called to say that this holiday weekend provided him with the best bass fishing he'd ever experienced trolling big Danny plugs on Thurs., Fri., Saturday and Sunday night under the full moon, Ronnie landed 57 bass with a combined weight of 1095 pounds. The range of fish was: a 50 pound 12 ounce, 7 fish 42 to 48 pounds, 11 other fish over 32 pounds, and the balance of the fish between 15 and 30 pounds. All the bass were weighed in at the **Gone Fishing Marina** on East Lake Drive. Ron said that all the action was along the south side beaches with the ebb tide best.

**On Tuesday 7/28 35 men took 120 fluke. Pictured above is Henry DeDona of Montauk with a 14 lb. fluke along with 9 other fluke weighing from 6 to 8 lbs. aboard the Marlin IV out of Montauk.**

**"Tagged Four-Ate Two" is the score for a party from Westchester aboard the "Modar II" with Capt. Pete Van Alst on June 18th at Montauk. The party included Bill Forshee, Wayne Boufford, Ralph Tarchine, Tony Velucci and Tony Semprone.**

Capt. Jimmy Behan of the **Peconic Queen III** reported that the cod fishing at Coxes Ledge was slow on Saturday and good on Sunday due to the strong winds Friday and the full moon tides. But the fishing on Monday was fantastic at Coxes Ledge with the average catch about 10 to 12 fish per man, all in the 15 to 30 pound range. A few small pollack and silver hake were mixed in with the cod. Stanley Krasinski of Wisconsin took 10 fish ranging from 20 to 62 pounds which was good enough to win the pool on Monday.

Capt. John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** reported that the porgy fishing is excellent with an easy catch of 200 pounds or more around the change of tide. Bass fishing during the daylight hours has been very picky with the only good catch of fish for the weekend being taken Saturday morning on incoming water. John said his charter took 9 bass on diamond jigs at that time. Some of the local sharpies, however, have been doing a good job on big bass at night. John said that it wasn't until this time last year that Montauk had that good run of bass, so there is hope that a good body of fish may still move through the area. The captain said that he also heard that the charterboat Sue Jac found a mess of weakfish out in the deeper water east of the Point and was trolling them on umbrella rigs.

Frank Tuma Jr. of **Tuma's Tackle** said that the charterboat "Hooker" brought in one of the largest dusky sharks ever to be weighed in on the dock. Capt. Dave Kohlus and mate Joe Ritsi had all they could do to get the shark on the scales with block and tackle. The shark weighed in at 490 pounds and took a fresh dead pollack. The angler that did the 1½ hours of work with a 4/0 50 lb. class outfit was Andrea Nassi. The boat was fishing in 230' of water south of the

Point and also saw a swordfish breach while fighting the shark.

Capt. Ron Grandinetti of the charterboat **Julie III** and his charters did very well over the weekend. On Saturday 300 pounds of porgies and 30 fluke were taken. Sundays catch was 525 pounds of porgies taken around the Great Eastern area. Hot spot for the fluke has been the North Rips. Bill from **Gone Fishing Marina** reported that the fluke fishing has been good in the North Rips. Richard Martoccia took 20 fluke including a 10 lb. doormat there. George Hear got lucky and managed to catch a 58 lb. striped bass trolling a big Danny plug around Great Eastern on Sunday afternoon. Bill said that Ron Onorato has been keeping everybody at the marina awake nights while weighing in his unbelievable catches of big striped bass.

John Keller of **Lake Montauk Marina** tells us that the porgy fishing is your best bet right now, with the areas of Great Eastern producing well and fish pretty much spread out from that point. For best results, use a big chum pot. Anglers will some find sea bass mixed in with the porgies.

Capt. Larry rodriguez was into blue sharks Saturday and released them all. On Sunday a spot east of Outer Shagwong produced good sized fluke and a few sea bass. His **Tide Runner** still has a few days open on weekends, so give him a call.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** had an unusual report concerning swordfish. Five of the marinas boats that haul out of Conn. came over for the holiday weekend and located a pod of swordfish. They were congregated in a one square mile area and moved three miles a day. The fish were first located on Monday and the five boats intercepted them 4 days in a row until the big wind on Friday. The swordfish were very spooky and would not take a bait after repeated tries so the harpoons were brought out. Gary "The Fonz" Dobrindt stuck a 415 lb. sword on Monday from his boat the LEE MAREE. "Big Al" Riccio lost two fish on his boat CORSAIR. Bruce "The Quiet Man" Whitaker on the SAN WHIT said his 13 year old son missed a big sword. Eddie "Stickman" Leaird of the SAYFISH harpooned one fish estimated to be 600 pounds that wrapped the line in the wheel and got away. Richard "Hot Stock" Polidori on the AQUAHOLIC stuck the biggest swordfish, 486 pounds. Henry Colombi said that Joe Stern on the "Mi-Jil-I-Jo II" took a 7 lb. 3 oz. fluke and O'Connor on the "Rennoco" took a 10 lb. doormat over the weekend. Ronnie Goldberg on the "Bar-Bar-Jac" is still getting cod and pollack. Offshore boats are getting 10 to 25 blue shark per trip.

Capt. Frank Maccaro of the charterboat **Free Spirit** said that on Friday he fished the 2nd set of Fingers and took 7 blue sharks to 125 pounds. On Saturday he went to 42 Fathoms and took a few blue sharks in the morning. At 2 P.M. a mako shark took the bait, and after making 5 15 foot jumps was brought to gaff. It weighed in at 135 pounds and Frank said that they saw another mako of about 400 pounds swimming along with it. On Sunday five blue sharks were tagged. A swordfish also took a live eel in the chum slick. The fish wasn't seen, but after the fish was lost the wire came back as a corkscrew. Frank said that due to a late cancellation he is open this Saturday.

Capt. Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** called to say that porgy time is here and fishing has been real good all week. Wm. Cornell of the Bronx was fishing on Sat. and Sun. and totalled over 225 lbs of porgies including many jumbos up to 3¼ pounds. Bud said you could drift for 1½ miles and catch fish all the way.

Capt. Bob Kiley had Chuck Williams,

Aldea Koutrokis of Islip Terrace took 7 fish including a 47¾ lb. cod that took the pool aboard the "Peconic Queen III" out of Montauk.


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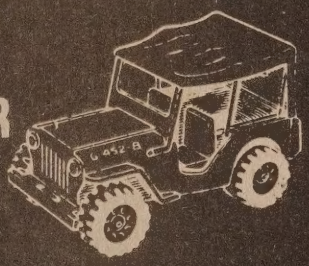

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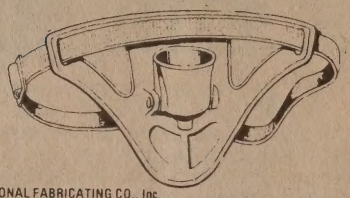
# The Long Island FISHERMAN CONTEST

## FISHING TRIP

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.



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**Sandy Psomas of Brooklyn is our Litter Box Contest winner for this week. Along with $10 he has also chosen a free fishing trip for two aboard the Peconic Queen for his prize.**

**THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:**

**810-KVJ**

**Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:**

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| Peconic Queen III | Capt. Ben Litwin | Chief | Betty W |
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Bob Costine, Fred Hill and Charlie Seaford of Guinan Litho aboard on a shark charter on Saturday. Ten blue sharks up to 122 pounds were taken. 8 were released and two were taken for jaw mounts. The captain said that one blue shark estimated to be 200 pounds was fought on 20 lb. test tackle for an hour and twenty minutes before it wrapped the line around a trim tab and broke off.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charterboat **Adios** called to say that he made a two day overnight trip to the dumping grounds on Wednesday and Thursday. The charter scored with over 50 blue sharks ranging from 80 to almost 300 pounds. The Captain said there were so many blue sharks that the fishermen were actually picking out the shark they wanted to catch, and eventually started using light tackle to make things more interesting. During the Mayhem a plastic bag fell into the water and was quickly ripped up by sharks feeding frenzily in the chum slick. Capt. Lewis said that he took the opportunity to experiment with a variety of shark baits: mackerel, squid, bunker, mullet, and herring. Result: Mackerel is the best shark bait going away.

## EAST HAMPTON

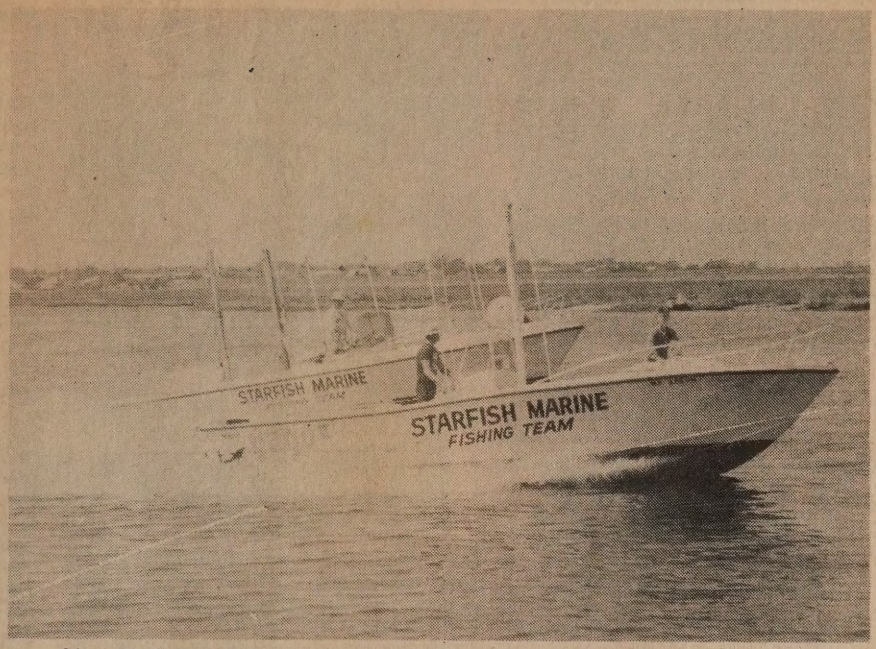
**Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station** reports action has picked up for porgies, fluke and weakfish off Cedar Pt. with porgies being caught up to 2 pounds plus on clam. The fluke and weaks are coming in on their rental skiffs from the same area.

## SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark Bellows Sr. said that the **Capt. Clark Boats** have been catching porgies "Knee Deep, all you want!" Best areas have been on the local wrecks east and west of Robbins Island. Fish are

also starting to show in the deeper water off Nassau Pt. Weakfish are almost gone with only a few being taken daily. Clark said that one of the boats fished the Shinnecock artificial reef and the Pan Panther wreck on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Thursday was the best day with a great catch of sea bass that ranged between 1 to 3½ pounds and more, real humpbacks. Big ling and a few blackfish were also mixed in.

Micky at **Altenkirch Tackle** said that the Shinnecock Anglers Swordfish, Marlin and Mako Tournament out of Indian Cove Marina was won with a 348 pound mako shark. No swordfish were taken. Bud Maloney also took a mako in the tournament, 150 pounds. Last Monday Ann Horvath took the first swordfish to come into Shinnecock, a 443 pounder. On Wednesday Armor Andon took a sword of 265 pounds also on hook and line. Lots of bluefish up to 4 pounds are being taken north of Shinnecock Canal in Peconic Bay. Still fluke being taken in Shinnecock Canal and Bay. Good catches of bass are being taken in eves around the Ponquogue Bridge.




**Alan Radi and Gene Atkins, members of the Starfish Marine Fishing Team go thru their final shakedown before heading offshore for the beginning of the sport fishing season. Photo courtesy of Starfish Marine.**

## HAMPTON BAYS

**Skipper's Fishing Station** reports that the fluke being caught are much larger now hitting on both tides using big sand eels, smelts and squid. East Channel across the mouth of the inlet and west of the inlet over the bars are working well. Plenty of porgies at Jessup's and early morning wire liners are getting mixtures of blues, weaks and bass. The wind is big factor, however, and the catch is way off with a northwest wind. Porgies and blacks as mentioned before at Jessups. The "Wanderer" caught plenty of blue shark over the weekend and the "Black Duck" had 2 medium sized makos. Shark upthegazoo.

Jimmy at **Corr's Fishing Station** said that the fluke fishing in Shinnecock Bay has been holding steady with most boats averaging 5 to 10 good keepers, with some of the local sharpies taking up to 30 fish. Jim said that the tides this week should result in better fishing. Best areas have been in East Channel by Shinnecock Inlet and the channel between the CG Station and Ponquogue Bridge. Use sand eels or spearing with a squid teaser. Live killies also provide good results when properly fished.

**Tony's Fishing Sta.** reports that on the weekend there boats averaged 10 to 12 fluke each with the sharpies doing much better. Some had up to 40 fish a day. Hot spot has been East Channel and buoy 18 and 20 right in front of the station. The fluke are hitting on both tides, but best on the outgoing. Sand eels or spearing for bait.

John at **Bradley's Fishing Station** reported that fluke fishing is still a little spotty but there is very good porgy fishing for his boats that have been going into Peconic Bay. Some boats had 4 or 5 nice kingfish mixed in with their catch of porgies. Best fluking has been in East Channel by Shinnecock Inlet. Joe Hickey, who owns Dardy's Restaurant on Montauk Highway in Hampton Bays weighed in a 350 pound mako shark over the weekend. John said that Joe is having a head mount made by Fish Unlimited Taxidermy that will be displayed in the restaurant.

## MORICHES BAY

Mary at **L&M Marine** reports very good fluking over the 3 day weekend with Ray Rodriguez of NYC boating 25 keepers on sandeels and squid while drifting from the CG station into Harts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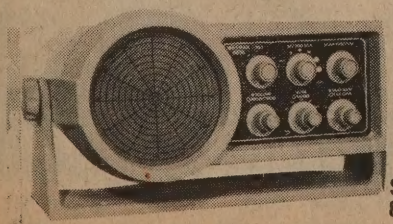

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**Jim Barberis took this 9 lb. 2 oz. fluke in the east channel of Shinnecock Bay. Photo courtesy of Skippers Fishing Station.**

Cove. Ron Nakul had 15 keeper fluke taken from Harts Cove on sand eels and squid also. Most skiffs came back with 8 to 15 fluke on the average.

Reports out of **Seatuck Cove Fishing Station** are that the fluke fishing has been kind of slow. Best area has been around buoy 39 on incoming tide using sand eels and squid for bait. Almost all of the fish are keepers.

**Skidmore's Fishing Station** reports that the fluke fishing is good and improving. Best areas on Sunday and Monday were off the CG Station and the sand bars by the inlet. Hitting best the first of the incoming on sand eels. Ark Chin and his two sons had 32 fluke 26 of which were keepers. Joe Matzelle of Queens and his sons had 37 fluke, 31 keepers. Bluefish and striped bass are being taken at dawn and dusk in the inlet between the jetties trolling red and black tubed umbrella rigs. Blue claw crabs are now good right in Harts Cove on the mud flats using traps.

Al Lassen of the **Hi-Way Fishing Station** said that it was a very good weekend for fishing. The Messina family had 70 keeper fluke on Sunday. Walter Szalenkwicz had 46 keepers on Sunday, and Mr. and Mrs. Rbt. Davidson had 28 keepers. Largest fish of the weekend was an 8 pounder taken by a private boat. The fluke are hitting good on both tides. Al said that on Monday eve he weighed in a mako shark of 139 pounds.

## MASTIC BEACH

**Stiriz's Fishing Station** reports the first signs of blue claws this weekend at the Bridge and at buoy 17 in traps. Fluke were slow this whole past week and weekend but those fishing deeper holes got good catches. Unfortunately, most flukers are working the flats where the fish are not. The water temp has gone up this week. Nice blackfishing at the bridge with fish from 3 to 5 pounds this weekend on sandworms and squid. Antonio Petrone had 4 dozen blacks from 3 to 5 pounds taken on the rock piles at Smith Pt. There has been slow bluefish action, fish up to 3 pounds mostly taken on the bottom on spearing and sand eels. Some blows at buoy 13.

## SAYVILLE

**Young's Fishing Station** reports fluking has been good off Ocean Beach this week on sand eels and killies, while some weakfish have been taken off Ocean Beach on salty dogs and squid strips. A few blowfish and porgies off Barrett Beach.

## WEST SAYVILLE

Weakfish picked up this week, mainly between buoys 28, 29 and 30 off LaSalle Academy as reported by Marty of **South Bay Fishing Station**. Irv Schwartszman and Gene Basovitch had 16 weaks in the 5½ lb. class on pink salty dogs. The best fluking is just east of buoy 17 drifting to buoy 18. There are many 3 and 4 lb. fish mixed in here on spearing, sand eels and live killies. Kings have showed just east of buoy 30 on clam baits, fish up to 2¼ pounds. Blowfish at Nicholl's Bay on clam and squid strips. Snappers off the town dock on spearing and small killies. These fish are around ½ pound. Some blue claws are being taken off the docks. Sailors Haven to Pt. of Woods, larger bluefish from 6 to 7 pounds are being taken on all artificials and on bait on early morning tides.

## OAKDALE

Charterboat **October Run** toughed out a rough ocean on Sunday but still managed to nab two blue shark for Bill Johnson and party. The shark were tagged and released by Capt. Raul. On Saturday Capt. Irv Levine's "North Star" ran 40 miles southwest of Fire Island Inlet and in just two hours his party boated 80 bluefish from 10 to 18 pounds, with bellies loaded full of bait. They would not touch anything except umbrella rigs. Irv says there was just acres and acres of bluefish.

Capt. Irv Levine will be putting out

**Shown here is John Jones of Bayshore with the 150 lb. blue shark caught on June 18th. Photo courtesy of Smokey's Bait and tackle.**

two boats from Oakdale's Vanderbuilt Wharf now, the **North Star**, a 38 foot diesel vessel will be run by "Buffalo Bob" for tile and offshore. Irv expects to have four boats running from this area by next year.

## EAST ISLIP

**Wet-A-Line Bait and Tackle** reports shark at the 125' line, mainly blues and duskies. Stripers at the Moses Bridge on live eels at night, and weakfish on sandworms and sand eels off Ocean Beach. Fluke has picked up this week on sand eels in Fire Island Inlet.

## BAY SHORE

Carl at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** tells of 19 keeper fluke for Frank Basile of Bay Shore working Snake Hill Channel on Saturday. This was on sand eels and squid on the flood. Dickersons and the State Channel have picked up this past week on fluke. Still a lot of big weaks on sand worms at the Coast Guard Station. Bass hounds fishing the CG Station have been getting weakfish on eels, as evidenced by an 8¾ pounder for Jim Pigeon of Bay Shore. Jim Baxter and Pete Novinski of Bay Shore had 2 twenty pound bass on eels at the construction dock, so the bass are holding up well. Pete Sindone took 2nd place in the Bay Shore Mako Tourny with a 305 lb. mako. Pete also won Smokey's Weakfish Contest grabbing a $50 gift certificate with a 10½ lb. weak. Blues in the bay are very good in the morning and late afternoon on poppers and Hopkins from the bridge to Ocean Beach. Bass chumming has been very good under the bridge on bellies for lots of schoolies.

## CAPTREE

Capt. Neil Delanoy of the charterboat **Lady Ann** reported that the fluke fishing has been improving but is still only fair.

**Shown here are Anthony Wojcik and Michael Desforge with weakfish of 6 lbs. 12 oz. and 8 lbs. taken aboard the Capt. Ben Litwin out of Captree.**

Average catch for the boat has been 50 to 100 fish each day. Best action off Ocean Beach and drifting from the inlet to the bridge. Friday night bluefishing was horrible and no one caught fish, although the choppers could be seen swimming in the chum slick. Sat. night and the Sun. day trip were both good with the bluefish boats taking 100 to 200 fish each trip. Neil said that there is very little live on the ocean reef, and there are still quite a few conger eels there so the water is still cold.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** said that the fluking was very good on Friday, Sat. and Sun. Average catch was between 6 and 12 fish each man with high hook up around 20. George said that the fish were good sized with many in the 2 to 4 lb. range and are

**Ron Onorato took these 25 bass running up to 37 pounds on a recent trip out of Montauk.**

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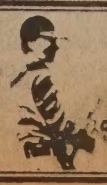
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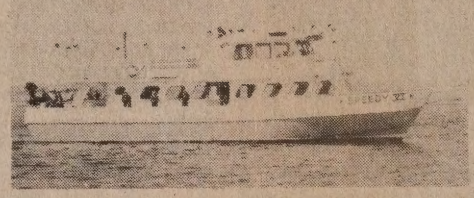

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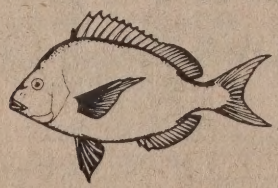

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in the shallow water. There are still a few weakfish around and some of the private boats have been taking 40 to 50 fish a tide chumming with grass shrimp. They are also still catching big bass drifting live eels and clam chumming around the bridge.

The **Captain Ben Litwin** reported that fluke fishing was good on Sat. and Sun. around West Island. Most of the fish were keepers with most of the throw-backs coming when fishing around the bridge. The fish are hitting sand eels, killies and squid on both tides.

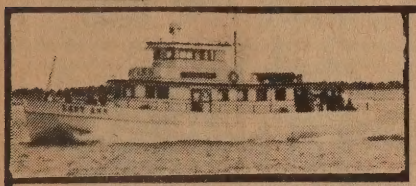
Fluke fishing was very good over the weekend although not a slaughter is the word from the **Capt. Rod.** Best areas have been Ocean Beach and West Channel. The Captain said that the fish are coming off the flats now and should be easier to catch. The fluke have been hitting best on the last of the flood and the first of the ebb. A few big fish are being taken down east where the fluke are mostly keepers with more throw-backs around the bridge.

## BABYLON

**Charlie's Fishing Station** reports Monday saw a good weakfish catch for Marty Smigiel of Lindenhurst with a 9 lb. weak taken on squid and sand eel in the State Channel. Tom Pietrocarli of W. Babylon bagged an 8 lb. 6 oz. weak on a home-made lure. Most of the skiffs returned with fluke however, with Fox Creek producing best on squid and sand eels. Some small blues off Bergen Pt. on bait, fish up to 3 pounds.

**Augie's Bait and Tackle** tells us that 14 year old Dan Brady of Putnam Valley boated a 10 lb. 7 oz. fluke taken on a squid—killie—sand eel combo at the last Moses Bridge plus 5 other keepers. His Dad took 3 swipes at this doormat with the net before scooping him up. This was on Sunday. The fish is being mounted by Fish Unlimited. Dave Othote and Larry McMurrur had bass of 13.9, 27.8, 31.10, and 35.11 pounds on live eels drifting between Democratic Pt. and the Bridge Sat. night on their boat "Jada." Ken Asworth had 12 keeper fluke and 1 8 pound weakfish all taken on live killies in Fl Inlet. Weaks are being taken on sand worms as evidenced by 40 for one sharpshooter one night and 28 weaks the next night fish to 8 pounds. This was in West Fire Island and Dickersons Channel. Snappers are invading the bay and canals now. Blue claws are spotty.


# CAPTREE



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***BY RESERVATION ONLY • LADY ANN (516) 698-5918***

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***$20 Fare • 20 Man Limit • Friday, July 8th and 15th at 7PM***

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## LINDENHURST

**Duke's Bait and Tackle** tells us that 62 year old Jack Aires of Babylon on his first striper outing last Sunday, bagged a 32 pound 11 ounce fish. It looked so easy, that Jack returned this past Sunday and coaxed another one into his boat, this time 36 pounds 3 ounces. This was all on live eel in Fire Island Inlet and goes to prove that you're never too old to become a bass hound. Sunday morning, Duke weighed in a 23 pound 3 ounce striper also taken from Fl Inlet on a live eel by Don Rousseau of Amityville. Snappers are showing on the north side

**Nine year old Bill Behringer took both these bass aboard the Snoopy on live eels. Dad, Neal is helping him show off his nice catch. Photo courtesy of Augies Bait and Tackle.**


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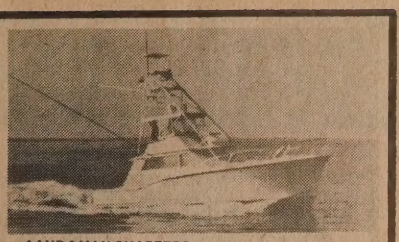

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of the bay this weekend but they are only about 5 inches long and should increase in size and quantity within a week or so. Fluking this week was so so, with the best keepers being taken at the north side of the bay on sand eels in shallow water. Blue claw crabs are starting to show, though there are no indications of a banner year yet. Lots of small blues from 1 to 4 pounds taken at the West Bar of Fire Island Inlet on plugs and on trolled umbrellas and tubes. Big weaks on fluke rigs with killies and squid as tempters between the lighthouse and the Coast Guard Station in Fire Island Inlet. Blue sharks are abundant offshore with duskies a close second. Only a few makos have been taken so far this year.

**Charlie's Bait and Tackle** reports the striped bass fishing is holding up with fish being picked between the bridge and the construction dock. Joey G. took a 20 pounder on a live eel, to name one. Fluking has been fair to good all week and weekend nearly the entire length of the inlet. Frank Said had a mess of 10 to 12 lb. chopper blues in 90 feet of water on the weekend. From the Whistler heading south, he trolled white umbrellas on wire and hit them at the 90' mark. Some blue claw crabs off local docks and a few weaks hitting off Ocean Beach.

The open boat **Sea Horse** reports the weekend a distinct improvement even though there are still a lot of short fish. Capt. Tom calls the fishing fair to good, with lots of action and enough keepers to feed the family. Be sure to return the midgets because fines can be severe if caught.

## COPIAGUE

**Jonas Bait and Tackle** reports that Ray Martorano had a 21.6 lb. striper taken at the Moses Bridge on a live eel. Amityville angler James Carter took a 31 lb. 6 oz. bass at the Moses Bridge also on a live eel. Fluking has been fair this past week with lots of action but many throwbacks amongst the catch. One man came in with six keepers. Blues in the bay at Amityville Cut running up to 4 pounds taken on Hopkins, Krocodiles and most any shiny lures also on Pussycats. One customer came back with 40 blackfish taken at the Robert Moses Bridge on fiddlers.

## AMITYVILLE

**George Combs Bait and Tackle** reports that some bluefish are being taken in the Moses bridge area trolling tubes and small umbrellas for a lot of small fish. George has been weighing in bass taken on live eels caught the whole length of Fire Island Inlet. He weighed in four fish in the 30s over the weekend. Fluking has been fair to good and George's small son bagged a 3½ lb. fluke off Fort Neck Pt. this past week. One angler fished live eels three consecutive nights this past week and brought in a fish each morning, each bigger than the one previous.

## MASSAPEQUA

**Massapequa Tackle and Sport** reports fluking is still slow with the best bet being drifting off Lido with sand eels and squid. Harbor Green has been a productive drifting area also. Stripers are on the upswing with Zach's Bay producing in the quiet hours on clam and clam chum or on live eels. Best is a live bunker if you can find one. Short Beach has been producing plenty of flounder on sandworms.

## SEAFORD

**Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station** reports the fluking has been ok this week and weekend at Massapequa Cove, Unqua Pt. and Squaw Island on killies, spearing and squid. Some weaks have been mixed in. A lot of short fluke are being taken and of course these must be returned. About 7 out of 20 fluke are keepers.

**Salice Fishing Station** reports fluke are being taken anywhere from Four Corners to the 3rd Wantagh Bridge and into Zach's Bay up to 3 pounds 12 ounces, with typical fish running 1¾ to 2 pounds. Some small blues at the 2nd bridge on squid and killies with a few weaks sprinkled in here and there.

## BELLMORE

Scott at **Merrick Marine Supplies** tells of good numbers of bass taken on chum at the 2nd Wantagh in the State Channel area. Fluking is spotty but Swift Creek and Short Beach along with Jones Inlet has produced some fish over the week and some snappers are starting to show.

## MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports the fluke have picked up once again with Sunday being the best of the 3 day weekend. Ned's Creek and Fundy were areas that gave forth some decent catches. Flounder fishing in Swift Creek off the Houses has been very good and chum should be employed for best results. Corn is working well. The bass fishing continues good with Dennis Newman taking 6 stripers up to 22 pounds on clam chum. He returned that night with his pal Otto and they took 5 more teen fish at the Wantagh Bridge. Some bluefish at Cholera on Sunday in the 4 to 6 lb. range. One boat at Nick's came back with 30 blues taken on diamond jigs and green bananas on Sunday. Sharkers have also been taking bluefish. In any case, the good news has been the fluke which have bounced back.

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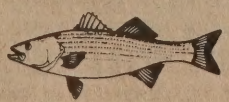


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*6 Pass. Charter Boat*


# N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

## FREEPORT

The **Starstream II** reports a super week of fishing with giant ling up to 6 pounds being the mainstay with a scattering of sea bass thrown in. Richie also had codfish while fishing offshore wrecks and on various days had 22, 7 and 9 cod in the 5 lb. range. Sea bass he is picking are going up to 3 pounds but averaging 1 pound. Some small pollack are being had also for this fabulous mixed bag.

**Capt. Al** reports 262 big blues taken on Saturday night's bluefish run for 16 anglers, working south of Cholera with Capt. Butch at the helm. The half day fluke trips featured on the **Capt. II** has been producing nicely and the regular day trips on the **Capt. Al** have been producing very good catches of sea bass, pollack and mainly ling. "I could sink the boat with ling," says Al.

The **Capt. Hall** reports good fluking all week and weekend in the nearby creeks. His fares are getting an average of 4 to 5 big keepers per man, with roughly 40 percent of the fish being midgets. Five fish on Sunday hit 3 pounds and 4 fish on Monday went 3 pounds.

Capt. Sy of the **Bluefin Fleet** called to report that Capt. Charlie Adams on Sunday had 12 blue fish up to 12 pounds while sharking, fish taken to and from the HA area. The **Blue Fin II** on Friday split up the day with flounders and fluke. The flounders are as big as the fluke and much fatter, says Sy and they are hitting good on clam baits in the local creeks. The fluking is productive also, with Reynolds Channel and the Inlet between buoys 9 and 15 and north of the CG Station producing. On Sunday some big blues up to 7 pounds were taken south of Cholera. Sy followed the birds and himself hooked 9 fish and gave the pole to his fares. Fish averaged 4 pounds and this was all in 85 to 100 water. Sy said the fish are moving fast in all directions. 39 choppers was the catch for the day and almost all fell to A-27s and Ava green bananas.

Ricky Cohen of Oceanside called in to say that he bagged an 11 lb. fluke on 10 lb. test on spearing this week fishing i in Reynolds Channel off Pt. Lookout.

Roy at **Mako Marina** informs us that Bob Garraputa on the charterboat **Sun Down** caught a 244½ lb. mako on Monday with angler Bob Levine on the rod. George Horwege took the first tiger of the season, a 161 lb. brute. Bluefish have shown up to the south at the 100' curve. Roy reminds you that this is your last chance to register for the L.I. open shark tournament with a $5000 first prize and a $1000 second prize. For details, call Roy at Mako Marina. See ad for phone number.

Greg at **Sea Isle Sports** reports fluking has picked up at Haunts Creek, Long


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**Shown here are Rocco Santesanio, Frank Volpicelli, John Raguso, Mike Falkowski, Paul Olivo, Tom Fitzpatrick and Jerry DeSapio with their catch of 8 blue shark up to 135 lbs. The sharks were taken 155 degrees from Jone Inlet in 162 ft. of water aboard Capt. Arnold's charterboat "Shalidon".**

Creek and Fundy Bay on sand eels, squid and killies. Bluefish are being taken deep on umbrellas in 90-95 feet of water. On Saturday night the **Capt. Al** did a very big job on choppers, around the 200' fish mark. Stripers on live eels at the bridges is a going thing and flounders are being taken from Haunts Creek, Short Beach and Swift Creek and the CG Station. Lots of small blues in Fll on small white tubes.

The charterboat **Sea Egg** called to say that they had 5 brown shark up to 100 pounds just south of the HA and also ran into a school of green bonito and snagged same with spinning gear. They still have some good weekday openings for shark available.

Charterboat **Nite Owl** called to tell us that on Sunday, Barry Tarrino and party of Massapequa had 14 blue and dusky shark. While fishing his own small boat for pleasure on Saturday, Joe bagged 18 fluke drifting Joe's Hole.

Bass hound Mel Wolff, a recent Long Island transplant, bagged a 37 lb. striper on a live eel fishing Jones Inlet off the Coast Guard Station last Sat. morning on ten lb. test line.

A 222 lb. mako shark was taken by Capt. Joe Long on the **Nite Owl** in the recent Bay Shore Mako Tournament.

The **Shalidon** went out on Wednesday and in rough seas had a big mako on but the angler on the rod dropped the beast just west of the HA. A few 75 pound blue shark were taken. This was a second charter for the Chase Manhattan Bank.

## POINT LOOKOUT

Marilyn at **Ed's Fishing Station** tells us that those who knew what to do did well on fluke this week and weekend mainly drifting and trolling the flats on the north side of Jones Inlet off the water tower. A big job was done on the weekend on flounders, no less. Bruno, Mike and Tom, all of New Jersey had 42 fluke on Saturday, trolling the aforementioned flats with spearing and sand eels. Other boats working this area had 18, 22, and similar numbers of fluke. Swift Creek and buoy 15 in the inlet produced high numbers of flounder and fat fish at that. One boat had 104 fat flounder. Lots of catches were made on worms. Carl Smith had a 30 lb. bass taken on the east side of the jetty on live eel. Blacks are good at the jetties on fiddlers and green crab and some sea bass are also being boated. Bluefish are being taken 18 miles out. Howie Frankel had 2 dozen choppers and a blue shark on the weekend.

The **Marie III** reports definite signs of water warming as they have caught fluke, porgies, sea bass and ling on inshore grounds. Don Barbara and party


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of 20 mohawked catches of sea bass up to 3 pounds on Sunday. Blues were found on top 3 miles southeast of Cholera. Try A-27s or bananas. Looks like the start of a good bluefishing season. The boat will be sailing day and night charters only, with choice dates still open.

## ISLAND PARK

**Beckman's Tackle** reports that fluke fishing is picking up from East Rockaway to Jones Inlet and are being taken on squid and sand eels. Crabbing has picked up at Oceanside Creek. Sand porgies are begining to show in the East

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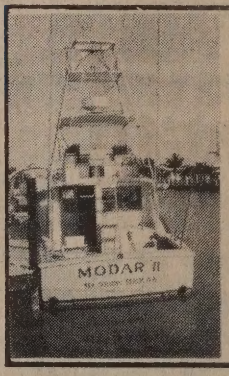


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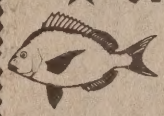
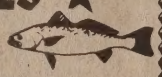


## BRAND X

8 AM DAILY



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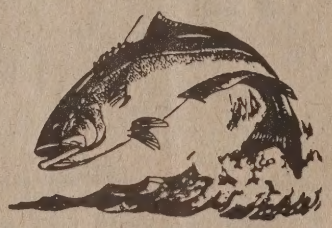

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# ATLANTIC BEACH

Capt. Ronnie Lepper on the **Kim** reports sharking over the weekend was fair to good with a lot of small browns and duskies. Also some small blue sharks were taken. Ronnie says he hears on the radio of some big Makos being hooked, but not necessarily landed. Water temperature was 61 degrees when he left Debs Inlet and was 73 degrees at the HA. Ron says he ran 55 miles on Saturday off the beach and still failed to find clean, pure water. A lot of whales in the area of very big size and also a lot of porpoises. Bass at Breezy Pt. has improved in the quality dept. Instead of has improved in the quality dept. instead of quantity, with most fish in the 20 to 30 lb. range. A sprinkling of big bluefish at Norton's Pt. on Lupo bunker spoons. The big body of chopper blues that the big boats are chasing are still 30 to 40 miles offshore southwest of the HA. Fred Hill's Four Queens had 38 trolled blues on Saturday and 29 on Sunday, on umbrellas.

# JAMAICA BAY

**Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** tells us of Dominick Petrone who took a 6¾ lb. bass on the North Channel Bridge using sandworms on 10 lb. test line. Lenard Bregenzer of Ozone Park took two weaks up to 8 pounds at the North Channel Bridge on bunker strips. Morrie Kuranoto took a 55 lb. bass with a 52 inch length and a 29 inch girth at Orient Pt. on sandworms. The fish was taken on 15 lb. test line. Sand porgies are being taken at Beach Channel Drive and fluke are being taken at Rees Park

**Richard Besthoff, Jerry Champion, and Burt Shulman from Con Edison with their catch of 15 bass from 15 to 25 lbs. taken at Breezy Point on Danny plugs and Lupo umbrella rigs aboard the "Kim".**

## SHEEPSHEAD BAY

**Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** reports the fluking has improved over what it was last week with productive areas again being from Rees Park to East Rockaway Inlet and also Ambrose Channel on squid, sand eels and spearing. Fish are mixed sizes with enough keepers to go around. Blues were taken Sat. and Sun. at Klondike on chum, A-27s and green bananas. Sea bass, says Neil Lauro Jr., ling and blacks are being taken at Sea Bright by the bottom boats with the sea bass running 2 to 3 pounds. Blues are being trolled with dark tubes at Norton's Pt. and bass are still at the Tin Can on dark tubes.

Walter on the **Flamingo II** tells us that fishing has been off a bit this week but he is still picking away at the fluke and sea bass. The fluke have picked up a bit this week and the fish taken are mainly keepers. A 5½ pounder took the pool each day this week. The quality of the fish being caught now is high, and quantity should be improving. Walter says that Saturday, July 9th, will be the maiden voyage of his new **Flamingo III**, and advises that as soon as the blues are in striking distance and settled down a bit, he will sail for them on a steady diet.

The **Helen H** reports good bluefishing on Sunday at the Angler Banks with some men having up to 40 fish. That's what I call bluefishing.

**Big Mohawk II** reports good fishing Saturday and Sunday on fluke, working the red side of Ambrose and also Sandy Hook. Fish are mostly keepers with a lot from 2½ to 3 pounds. Saturday's pool fish tipped the scales at 6 pounds and Sunday's went 5 pounds. A days average is 4 to 5 fish per man. One angler had a dozen good fluke and there has been a great improvement over last weeks fishing. Tony says that he still has some choice weekdays open.

Capt. Harold on the **Chief** tells of good bluefish catches south of Cholera Saturday night on bait and good fluking most of the week, and good catches of ling. The **Chief** has been splitting the days half fluke, half ling.

## STATEN ISLAND

**Santo's Sport Shop** reports that Penny Beach is producing bass on worms and Cliff Street is taking them on artificials like Danny plugs and bucktails. Fort Wadsworth and South Beach are producing blues from 8 to 10 pounds on cut bait. Gateway Park and Great Kills Harbor are producing weakfish on sandworms and Kastmasters. Fluke are being taken from the Verranzano Bridge to Princess Bay. The number 21 can by the bridge is producing nice weakfish to 10 pounds on worms and nice bass and blues on bunker. The Berger Ave. storm sewer is producing school bass from 3 to 5 pounds Blues from 3 to 5 pounds are being taken trolling gorilla rigs and Pet spoons in the Middle Grounds.

**Joe Amalfitano of Howard Beach with a big bass taken at Fire Island Inlet on a live bass eel at the bottom of the ebb tide aboard Billy's Dream. Photo courtesy of Cross Bay Bait and Tackle.**

# NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

## GREENPORT

**A. P. White Bait Shop** reported plenty of jumbo bass taken drifting over by Old Silas. Fish up to 57 pounds were taken last week on yellow or green bucktails fished with a 12 ounce sinker on a three-way rig. More than one fifty pounder was caught. The charter and open boats are now fishing for fluke and porgies on the East Side of Gardiner's Island. Also some fluke near buoy 8 of East Marion. There's some weakfish in this channel hitting on the flood tide. Small blues are at Jessups; there are a lot of them. Also blues at Kenny's Beach. Shorefishermen are getting 15-20 pound bass on worms and plugs along the east side of Shelter Island.

The **Wilhelric** reports very good porgy fishing working the area east of Gardiners Island both Saturday and Sunday. Saturday's high hook was 50 porgies up to 4 pounds. Real humpbacks. Sunday was pretty much of a repeat with fish coming hot and heavy. Capt. Artie says that starting this weekend the boat will be sailing at 7 A.M. on Saturdays and Sundays to give fares an extra early hour of fishing, as porgies fight best in early morning hours.

## SOUTHOLD

**Port of Egypt** reported that porgy fishing was fair at Buoys 16 and 17. Most fish weighed about one pound. There was a nice catch of porgies made at buoy 6 near the abandoned lighthouse. Weakfish are still being picked up near the Brickyard and Painted Rock off Shelter Island. One good fluke catch was made on the East Side of the Greenport Jetty near Doering Harbor. One boat had 10 fluke up to 15 lbs., 11 ounces. The big fish was caught on strips of fluke belly. There's reports of fluke off Truman Beach and there's flounders in Petty's Bight. Shorecasters are picking up blues in the Sound on Hopkins or Tri Fins. One fellow caught an 11 pound blackfish at Orient Point.

**(L. to R.) Roger gallego, Dan March, Tom Cuomo and Tom March with 38 weaks taken with squid on long leader weakfish hooks in the Brickyard at the change in tide. Photo courtesy of Port of Egypt.**

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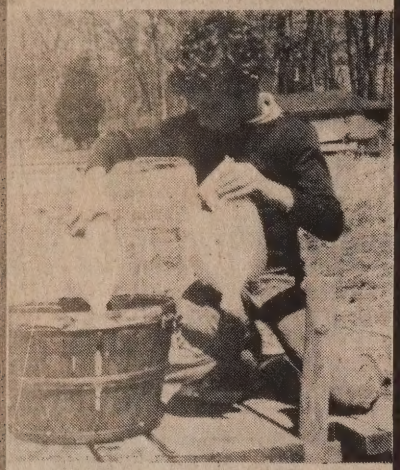

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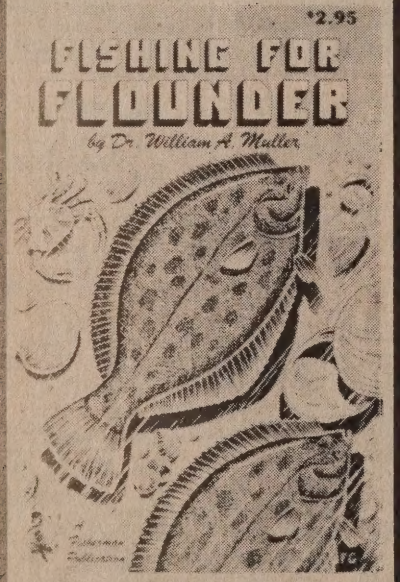


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**Kenny Nesky caught this nice bass on live bunker fishing Hempstead Harbor. Photo courtesy of Glen Cove Sport Shop.**

## NEW SUFFOLK

**Capt. Marty's Fishing Station** reports porgies up to 2 pounds are being taken at South Race—Rose Grove area and buoys 22, 23, 25 and 29 on worms and skimmers. Weakfish to 7 pounds and a dozen or so 2 to 3 pounders have been taken in the Roses Grove and Cows Neck areas. Blues are being caught in the South Race and west of Robbins Island on Rag Mops, bucktails and short surgical tubes.

## AQUEBOGUE

**Warren's Tackle** reported loads and loads of porgies anywhere you go. The fish range in size from very tiny up to 2½ lbs. Sharpshooters are still getting weakfish on a whole sandworm on a hi-hook. Blues were off buoy 5 in the Sound, hitting rigs on wire or lead line. Very few bass along the Sound and Plum Gut isn't producing many bass with the exception of some Connecticut boats scoring with live bait.

## JAMESPORT

**Jamesport Bait and Tackle** reports that there are plenty of porgies all over the bay and sound. Plenty of big weakfish are being caught by the motels on squid. There are schools of blues in the bay and in the sound and they can be taken on umbrellas. Kingfish are in the bay near Robbins Island and the fluke fishing has died down a lot.

## ROCKY POINT

**Rocky Pt. Fishing Stop** tells us of big bass being taken east of Wading River. Joe Chutowski took a 31 lb. bass fishing live eels at Wading River. Mike Baxter took a 14½ lb. bass fishing Pt. Jeff Harbor with Red Fins. Porgies are plentiful in this area. Bluefish are being taken up to 9 A.M. in the morning from Sound Beach to Wading River up to 3 pounds on Hopkins and Kastmasters. The drop offs at buoys 9 and 11 are producing blues from 3 to 7 pounds and up to 9 on Sekora rigs. A few blackfish can still be had and blowfish are showing in Miller Place.

## SELDEN

**Angler's Den** reports that more fluke up to 5 pounds are being taken this week from Flax Pond and east to Shoreham on squid, smelt, spearing and sand eels. Porgies of mixed sizes are being taken in the sound on clams and sandworms. Marty Kessler took a 28 lb. 3 oz. striped bass in Wading River on a live eel. Linda Weisler took a 4½ lb. fluke in the buoy 11 area on smelts. Walter Yackel took a 7 lb. weakfish which are mixed in with the blues at buoys 9 and 11, Crane's Neck and Eaton's Neck. These areas are still alive with weakfish from 5 to 8½ pounds, bluefish from 8 to 12 pounds and a few bass also mixed in to 15 pounds.

## MT. SINAI HARBOR

**Dick's Sporting Goods** reports that porgies and blowfish are being taken at local beaches on worms. Blues and weaks can be taken at buoys 9 and 11. The blues are being picked up on surgical tubes while the weaks are taking squid or a lure with a squid strip.

### KINGS PARK

Bob at **Mae's Way Fishing Station** reports that their weekend bluefish derby produced disappointing results. Out of 16 contestants, only a handful of fish were brought to dock. The winner of the derby was Neil Curry with a fish of 6 pounds 9 ounces taken about one mile off Crane's Neck on a mackerel chunk. Second place went to Paul Bruno whose 2 lb. 3 oz. blue was the biggest of the dozen fish he caught on plugs early Monday morning at the Lilco Power Plant. On the bottom scene, porgy fishing remained excellent over the entire weekend, with the rental fleet averaging one half to one bushel per man. Fluke fishing was spotty with two to five per boat being the average catch. Angelo Fonzone weighed in a 4 lb. 2 oz. fluke on Monday taken on a squid strip and spearing combo off the Flax Pond area. Some jumbo weakfish were taken by those lucky enough to find a feeding school of fish. This seemed to be strictly a dawn and dusk operation.

## PORT JEFFERSON

**Caraftis Brothers Fishing Station** reported plenty of porgies in the area. Also good numbers of fluke from buoy 11 to the inlet. Fluke fishermen are also drifting off Flax Pond. There's blues and

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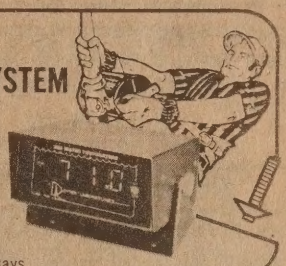

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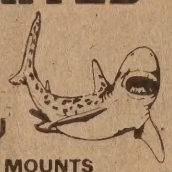

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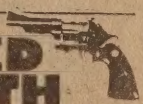

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**Byron Grosselfinger took this 40 lb. striped bass on a live eel at night east of Wading River. Photo courtesy of the Rocky Point Fishing Stop.**

weaks at buoy 11 for early morning trollers working wire and rigs. School bass being taken in the harbor in the early a.m.

## NORTHPORT

Fred at **Chain Locker** reports that the porgies are in thick throughout the harbor. Fishermen off the Northport Pier have been picking up as many as 22 porgies. Larger fish are being taken on the outside. Stripers are still being drifted at night and trolled off Lloyd's Pt. and Eaton's Neck beneath the lighthouse. Signs of bluefish have been improving. The blues are gathering outside of the hot water outflow at Lilco, with fish up to 7 pounds being recorded. For the past four days, blues and bass have hit the beach at Eaton's Neck just prior to dawn. Weakfish are still taking worms intended for stripers at Lloyd's Neck from Marshall Field to Target Rock. Fluke fishing is still not up to par, although occasional large fish are still being hooked and netted in the Callahan and Mackamah area. Fred said the fishing is way off from this time last year.

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** said weakfishing is the big news. Last Saturday morning, Charles Dee and Vin Vitkovich found weaks up on top off Eaton's Neck. The biggest three they caught weighed 8½, 6½, and 4½ pounds. Small blues were also in the area. On Saturday evening, the fish were back on top. Plenty of small porgies by buoy 6. There's bigger porgies one mile off Callahan's Beach. Some small blues in the hot water at Lilco. Bass fishing was slow until last Friday. Since then, it's been early morning and evening trolling worms. Fluke fishing has fallen off, but you can still get a couple at the mouth of Crab Meadow Creek. Snapper fishing hasn't started just yet. Last year the small blues showed up on July 13th.

## HUNTINGTON

**Ronnie's Bait and Tackle** reports that the best bet for catching weakfish is drifting sandworms off Lloyd Pt. at dusk and dawn. The fish being taken from this area are averaging better than 6 pounds. Carl Fusaro had a 33 lb. bass trolling sandworms in Cold Spring Harbor. Some fluke are being taken at Lloyd Pt., Marshall Field and Eaton's Neck drifting

**Capt. Pete Anderson's "North Star" had a good day with everyone going home with good catches of porgies and blacks.**

**Jay Carroll with an 11 lb. 4 oz. striped bass, taken from Little Neck Bay with a Hopkins bucktail.** Subscriber Club Photo.

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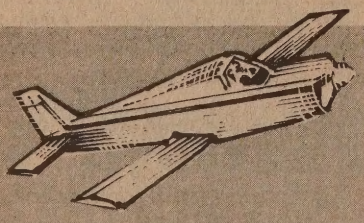


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squid and sandworms. Small porgies are being taken at Mackamah Beach on sandworms.

## GROTON

Dottie at **Ken's Tackle** said bass fishing was very good last week out in the Race on green bucktails. One customer fished all night last Saturday with his wife. They got two fifty-pound fish, plus one estimated to be 62-64 pounds. Dottie said there's a 56½ pounder mounted in the shop, but this fish was much bigger around than the mounted one. The fellow's wife caught the fish and she said she'll bring around a picture for us to put in the paper. Porgy fishing is good at buoy 26. Off Napatree or the backside of Fisher's Island are the places for fluke. Not much happening up in the river, though there's blacks and a few flats around Eastern Point. We are sorry to relate the blues aren't yet in the Race.

Capt. George Glas of the **Hel-Cat** said the fluke fishing is holding up. Unfortunately, three very big fish were lost at boatside when anglers hollered for the net instead of the gaff. If you have a real big fluke on, holler for the gaff and keep the fish on a tight line.

## FISH TALK

*(Continued from page 11.)*

sels, and squid. Chumming enhances the catch and don't be afraid to life the bait off the bottom from time-to-time. Frequently while chumming, the kingfish will be drawn into your fishing area and will lunge for a bait when the fish see your offering rising sharply off the bottom. When you hook a kingfish this way, the strike is worthy of mention.

**BE ALERT THIS SUMMER!** Those of you who will be fishing in the bays for porgy and fluke this summer may catch some kingfish. Remember what they look like and take them home for the pot. They're go-o-o-o-d!


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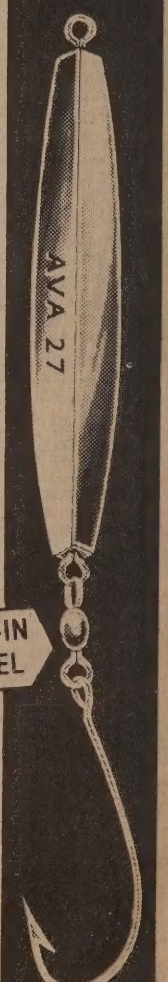


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NO. BABYLON, N.Y. 11703

# HIGH TIDE TABLES

| DAY | SANDY HOOK AM | SANDY HOOK PM | Breakwater Harbor AM | Breakwater Harbor PM | NEW YORK AM | NEW YORK PM | NEW LONDON AM | NEW LONDON PM | WILLETS POINT AM | WILLETS POINT PM | BRIDGE-PORT AM | BRIDGE-PORT PM | NEW-PORT AM | NEW-PORT PM | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| THUR. | 1:08 | 1:42 | 2:07 | 2:47 | 1:58 | 2:37 | 2:59 | 3:39 | 5:20 | 5:55 | 4:45 | 5:16 | 1:12 | 1:46 | 7/7 |
| FRI. | 2:01 | 2:37 | 3:03 | 3:45 | 2:47 | 3:27 | 3:57 | 4:36 | 6:23 | 6:55 | 5:40 | 6:10 | 2:03 | 2:37 | 7/8 |
| SAT. | 2:56 | 3:32 | 3:59 | 4:40 | 3:40 | 4:19 | 4:57 | 5:32 | 7:27 | 7:51 | 6:38 | 7:04 | 2:54 | 3:28 | 7/9 |
| SUN. | 3:51 | 4:23 | 4:57 | 5:31 | 4:36 | 5:12 | 5:57 | 6:21 | 8:23 | 8:45 | 7:35 | 7:57 | 3:50 | 4:24 | 7/10 |
| MON | 4:44 | 5:13 | 5:50 | 6:20 | 5:34 | 6:05 | 6:48 | 7:07 | 9:18 | 9:34 | 8:30 | 8:49 | 4:47 | 5:17 | 7/11 |
| TUE. | 5:34 | 6:00 | 6:41 | 7:04 | 6:29 | 6:53 | 7:35 | 7:47 | 10:06 | 10:19 | 9:21 | 9:37 | 5:43 | 6:07 | 7/12 |
| WED. | 6:24 | 6:45 | 7:26 | 7:49 | 7:19 | 7:36 | 8:16 | 8:28 | 10:51 | 10:59 | 10:08 | 10:22 | 6:36 | 6:52 | 7/13 |
| THUR. | 7:09 | 7:28 | 8:08 | 8:27 | 8:04 | 8:17 | 8:57 | 9:05 | 11:31 | 11:28 | 10:53 | 11:04 | 7:19 | 7:32 | 7/14 |

## HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide , add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

## On SANDY HOOK

| | |
|---|---|
| STATEN ISLAND | + 0 2[illegible] |
| ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS | —0 01 |
| Red Bank, Navesink R. | + 0 48 |
| Long Branch | —0 34 |
| SHARK RIVER INLET | —0 18 |
| Shark River Basin | + 0 27 |
| MANASQUAN INLET | —0 12 |
| Seaside Park | —0 33 |
| Mantoloking Bridge | + 5 34 |
| TOMS RIVER | + 4 37 |
| Waretown | + 2 33 |
| BARNEGAT LIGHT | —0 20 |
| Manahawkin Bridge | + 2 33 |
| Beach Haven | + 1 47 |
| LITTLE EGG INLET | —0 01 |
| Seven Islands | + 0 12 |
| Graveling Point | + 1 05 |
| Mullica River | + 1 55 |
| Grassy Bay | + 1 08 |
| ABSECON INLET | + 0 14 |
| Atlantic City Pier | —0 26 |
| Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet | + 0 12 |
| GREAT EGG HARBOR | + 0 46 |
| CORSON INLET | + 0 09 |
| TOWNESEND INLET | + 0 06 |
| HEREFORD INLET | + 0 02 |
| Grassy Sound Bridge | + 0 45 |
| Cape May Harbor | —0 02 |
| Rehoboth Beach | —0 07 |
| INDIAN RIVER INLET | + 0 14 |
| SHINNECOCK INLET | —0 50 |
| Shinnecock Bay | + 1 25 |
| East Quogue | + 2 45 |
| Shinnecock Canal | + 1 18 |
| Indian Reservation | + 3 05 |
| MORICHES INLET | —0 56 |
| Smith's Point | + 3 28 |
| Harts Cove | + 1 30 |
| Potunck Point | + 3 35 |
| Mastic Beach | + 3 28 |
| FIRE ISLAND INLET | —0 38 |
| Democrat Point | —0 38 |
| Coast Guard Station | —0 19 |
| Fire Island Light | + 0 47 |
| GREAT SOUTH BAY | |
| Sayville | + 3 39 |
| Heckscher State Pk. | + 3 20 |
| Bay Shore | + 2 23 |
| Babylon | + 2 12 |
| Amityville | + 2 21 |
| JONES INLET | —0 19 |
| Zachs Bay | + 1 25 |
| Seaford Harbor | + 2 05 |
| Freeport Creek | + 0 34 |
| E. ROCKAWAY INLET | —0 06 |
| Long Beach Bridge | + 0 19 |
| ROCKAWAY INLET | —0 00 |
| Beach Ch. Bridge | + 0 38 |
| JFK Airport | + 0 26 |

## On BRIDGEPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| Lloyd Point | 0 08 |
| Cold Spring Harbor | 0 08 |
| Bayville Bridge | + 0 13 |
| Eatons Neck Point | + 0 03 |
| Northport Bay | + 0 03 |
| Norwalk Islands | + 0 10 |
| Smithtown Bay | —0 03 |
| Cranes Neck Point | + 0 05 |
| Port Jefferson Harbor | + 0 03 |
| New Haven Harbor | + 0 08 |
| Mount Sinai Harbor | —0 08 |
| Herod Point | —0 07 |
| Mattituck Inlet | + 0 19 |
| Horton Point | [illegible] |
| Truman Beach | —0 42 |
| Falkner Island | —0 13 |
| Sachem Head | —0 10 |
| Branford Harbor | —0 07 |
| New Haven Harbor | —0 08 |
| Milford Harbor | —0 07 |
| Stratford | + 0 27 |
| Shelton | + 1 36 |
| Black Rock Harbor | —0 03 |
| Saugatuck River | —0 01 |
| South Norwalk | + 0 10 |
| Greens Ledge | —0 01 |
| Stamford | + 0 04 |
| Cos Cob Harbor | + 0 06 |
| Greenwich | + 0 02 |

## On NEW LONDON

| | |
|---|---|
| Orient Point | + 0 27 |
| Little Gull Is. (Race) | + 0 12 |
| Greenport | + 1 04 |
| Southold | + 1 43 |
| New Suffolk | + 2 26 |
| South Jamesport | + 2 32 |
| Shinnecock Canal | + 2 33 |
| Noyack Bay | + 2 05 |
| Sag Harbor | + 0 59 |
| Gardiners Bay | + 0 21 |
| Promised Land | —0 14 |
| Montauk Inlet | —0 25 |
| Montauk Point | —1 13 |
| Niantic | + 1 20 |
| Stonington | —0 33 |
| Noank, Mystic River | —0 23 |
| THAMES RIVER | |
| Smith Cove | —0 01 |
| Norwich | + 0 09 |
| CONNECTICUT RIVER | |
| Saybrook jetty | + 1 10 |
| Lyme | + 1 24 |
| Essex | + 1 38 |
| East Haddam | + 2 41 |
| Higganum Creek | + 2 54 |

## On WILLETS PT.

| | |
|---|---|
| Little Neck Bay | —0 10 |
| Execution Light | —0 06 |
| Manhasset Bay | —0 01 |
| Hempstead Harbor | —0 11 |
| City Island | —0 03 |
| Rye Beach | —0 28 |
| Port Chester | —0 09 |
| Mamaroneck | —0 08 |
| New Rochelle | —0 24 |
| Davids Island | —0 02 |

## On B'WATER HB.

| | |
|---|---|
| CAPE MAY POINT | —0 10 |
| Miami Beach | + 1 17 |
| East Point | + 0 53 |
| Egg Island Point | + 0 33 |
| Penhorn Creek | —0 05 |
| ROOSEVELT INLET | + 0 09 |
| Mispillion River Ent. | + 0 33 |
| St. Jones River Ent. | + 0 57 |

## On NEW YORK

| | |
|---|---|
| Jersey City | + 0 07 |
| Geo. Washington Br. | + 0 46 |
| Spuyten Duyvil | + 0 58 |
| Ossining | + 1 53 |
| Peekskill | + 2 24 |
| West Point | + 3 16 |
| Newburg | + 3 42 |

## On NEWPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| Sakonnet | —0 10 |
| Tiverton | + 0 21 |
| Beavertail Point | —0 02 |
| Prudence Is., Sandy Pt. | + 0 10 |
| Bristol | + 0 10 |
| Warren | + 0 21 |
| Nayatt Point | + 0 12 |
| Pawtucket | + 0 21 |
| East Greenwich | + 0 16 |
| Wickford | + 0 12 |
| Narragansett Pier | —0 08 |
| Point Judith Harbor | —0 07 |
| BLOCK ISLAND | |
| Great Salt Pond | + 0 05 |
| Old Harbor | —0 14 |
| Watch Hill Point | + 0 44 |

## SUNRISE/SUNSET

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7/5 | 5:30 | 8:39 |
| 7/10 | 5:33 | 8:37 |
| 7/15 | 5:37 | 8:34 |
| 7/20 | 5:41 | 8:31 |
| 7/25 | 5:46 | 8:26 |
| 7/30 | 5:51 | 8:21 |

## PHASES OF THE MOON

| NEW | 1st Qtr. | FULL | 2nd Qtr. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7/16 | 7/23 | 7/1 | 7/8 |

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type

| | AM Minor | AM Major | PM Minor | PM Major |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| THURS. | 10:45 | **5:05** | 11:15 | **5:30** |
| FRI. | 11:45 | **5:55** | — | **6:20** |
| SAT. | 12:05 | **6:35** | 12:25 | **7:00** |
| SUN. | 12:40 | **7:15** | 1:15 | **7:40** |
| MON. | 1:25 | **8:00** | 1:55 | **8:25** |
| TUES. | 2:10 | **8:40** | 2:40 | **9:05** |
| WED. | 2:50 | **9:25** | 3:20 | **9:50** |
| THURS. | 3:35 | **10:10** | 4:05 | **10:35** |

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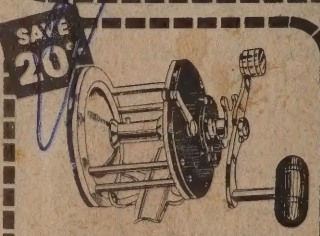


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